

Wilkening takes command of Guard

Former Air Guard commander is states's 29th AG

By Tim Donovan
At Ease Staff

Gov. Scott McCallum passed the flag of the Wisconsin National Guard to a new commander in a ceremony at the state headquarters Aug. 9, making Brig. Gen. Al Wilkening the state's 29th adjutant general.

Wilkening succeeds Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, who held the state's top military spot for five years.

"As I wish Jim Blaney well in a long and happy retirement," McCallum said. "I also look forward to working with Al Wilkening, who will continue the strong leadership that makes our Wisconsin National Guard the best in the nation. Gen. Wilkening brings a solid blend of military and private-sector experience to this position, and he is widely respected throughout the Wisconsin National Guard and in military circles nationwide."

As adjutant general, Wilkening will serve in the governor's cabinet and head the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, which includes the Wisconsin Army National Guard, with about 7,700 members assigned to 100 units in 67 state communities; the Wisconsin Air

National Guard, with 2,300 members at state headquarters and Truax Field in Madison, Mitchell Field in Milwaukee, and Volk Field near Camp Douglas; and a civilian workforce including the state's Emergency Management division.

"It is an honor and privilege to serve you and the men and women of the Wisconsin National Guard as the next adjutant general," Wilkening told the governor before a standing-room-only audience at the state headquarters armory.

"You have exhibited extraordinary leadership during some of the most dynamic and demanding times in our nation's history and I look forward to engaging the challenges that lie ahead," Wilkening said. "I also look forward to serving in this new capacity with great confidence because I am assuming command of the very best military organization in the nation."

Wilkening began his military career in 1968 with five years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, where he served as an instructor pilot. Following active duty he joined the Wisconsin Air National Guard at Madison's Truax Field in August, 1973.

While serving at Truax Field, Wilkening flew O-2A, AO-37 and A-10 aircraft, with assignments leading up to 176th Tactical Fighter Squadron commander and deputy commander for operations in the 128th Tactical Fighter Wing.

In December 1990, he became



Brig. Gen. Al Wilkening is promoted to the rank of major general during the change of command ceremony for the adjutant general of Wisconsin. Pinning second stars on the new adjutant general's uniform are Gov. Scott McCallum and Wilkening's wife, Pat. Wisconsin Army National Guard photo by Larry Sommers.

deputy adjutant general for Air and commander of the Wisconsin Air National Guard. Wilkening is a Massapequa, N.Y., native and a current resident of Brooklyn, Wis.

Addressing more than 400 Guard members in the audience, Wilkening called them "an assembly of proud warriors — professionals in every sense of the word — who are committed to their pro-

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at ease

Celebrating 25 years of service to members of the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard and their families

September 2002

Three Army Guard units return from active duty



Sgt. Nick Grob, 829th Engineer Detachment, is greeted by girlfriend Shannon Amos and daughter Raven, 3, upon his return to Fort McCoy after six months of service in Central Asia. Photo by Mike Gourlie.

Missions completed for 829th Engineers, 32nd Military Police and 147th Aviation

By Tim Donovan
At Ease Staff

Summer brought an end to lengthy active duty missions for three Wisconsin Army National Guard units called up to support separate U.S. contingency operations overseas.

For 12 members of Richland Center's 829th Engineer Detachment, homecoming from a deployment to Afghanistan was June 12. The engineers were ordered to active duty in November, shipped overseas to an undisclosed location in Central Asia in December, then eventually served for about four months in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

As part of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, the unit's plumbers and electricians helped

improve and maintain the sprawling U.S. base camp established at the Afghan air base.

Returning to Fort McCoy, soldiers were greeted by their families before completing outprocessing from active duty and a final trip to the Richland Center armory. In Richland Center, unit members received a formal welcome from hometown officials, legislators, reporters and senior National Guard commanders.

32nd Military Police Company

Operation ENDURING FREEDOM was not the only overseas military operation experienced by Wisconsin Army Guard troops during the past year.

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500-plus other Guard members still on duty, more mobilizations coming.

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Chontales duration staff comes home

By Mike Gourlie
At Ease Staff

They are now back home, all 52 of them — memories in place, souvenirs of a grateful citizenry in hand and written accolades from the U.S. ambassador — testaments to the five arduous months these soldiers spent leading a humanitarian effort in Nicaragua.

All are Wisconsin Army National Guard members who made up the majority of the 'duration' soldiers that helped move 2,400 other reservists in and out of this Central American country to build clinics and schools and to provide medical, dental and veterinary care.

Joint Task Force Chontales provided relief in a region suffering from the political turmoil that tore the country apart in the 1980s

and the ravages inflicted by Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

The exercise resulted in the construction of four schools, six medical clinics, four wells and three composting latrines. The doctors, physician assistants, nurses, dentists and optometrists participating performed almost 32,000 medical procedures for the local inhabitants, many of whom had never before received medical care. In addition, military veterinarians performed over 18,000 medical procedures on local animals.

The exercise included all four U.S. military services — Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines — active, reserve and National Guard.

The training benefits and

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Spc. Christopher Gans, a concrete finisher with Detachment 1, Company C, 724th Engineer Battalion, Rhinelander, lays a floor for the El Coral Medical Clinic. This clinic was one of six constructed by engineers as part of Joint Task Force Chontales, an exercise led by the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Homecomings

Continued from Page 1

For 33 members of the 32nd Military Police Company of Milwaukee and Madison, active duty was in support of the 32-nation stabilization force to maintain peace in Bosnia. The MPs were ordered to active duty in a Presidential Selective Reserve Call-up in mid-February. They served six months in Taszar, Hungary.

During the deployment, the MPs provided base camp security and convoy escorts to other U.S. troops travelling into Bosnia.

What was originally planned as two three-month rotations for about 60 troops was turned into a single long-haul deployment for the 33 military police soldiers. The change came because of shortages of military police assets Army-wide — and a possibility the remaining members of the MP company might be needed elsewhere.

As family members waited outside a security checkpoint at Gen. Mitchell International Airport Aug. 25, the MPs who had left for Europe expecting a three-month stay returned to Milwaukee having completed more than six months overseas service.

Their mission was finally over.

147th Aviation

The longest Army Guard deployment during the past year was by members of 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation. Beginning in July 2001, more than 120 members of the Madison-based Black Hawk helicopter unit have been deploying to and from Kuwait in approximately 100-day rotations.

The aviators' last rotation ended in early August, but it took more than two weeks to get everyone home.

First to arrive in Madison were 28 soldiers who returned Aug. 11. They were followed a week later by five more troops and two UH-60 helicopters, but one final redeployment of troops and aircraft tested everybody's patience as a C-5 transport lumbered its way toward Madison, turning back for mechanical problems, and forcing delay after delay until finally landing at Truax Field just before 3 a.m. on Aug. 27.



Members of the 829th Engineer Detachment got a warm welcome home in Richland Center June 14. In addition to flowers, each received a resolution of appreciation from the Wisconsin state legislature. Photo by Kelly Pensinger.



LEFT: The second of two UH-60 Black Hawks is pulled from the cargo bay of the C-5 Galaxy transport that brought the 147th Aviation's remaining troops and aircraft home. RIGHT: Sgt. 1st Class Dan Sukenik muscled the last Black Hawk from the C-5. Photos by Tim Donovan.



Staff Sgt. Wade Hallett, 32nd Military Police Company, gets three big hugs at the Milwaukee airport as he returns from six months active duty in Hungary Aug. 25. Photo by Tim Donovan.



Guard troops called up after Ladysmith tornado

Story and Photos
by Kelly Pensinger
At Ease Staff

Thirty-two Guardmembers were called up for five days after a tornado hit the town of Ladysmith on Sept. 2.

Members of the 724th Engi-

neer Battalion brought dump trucks, front-end loaders and other support vehicles to help clear away debris. Downed branches, snapped-off basketball hoops, shards of glass and sections of roofing littered the streets.

"There was an outpouring of

calls from other soldiers and units volunteering to help with the cleanup," said Lt. Col. Jim Lewis, Deputy Commander of the 264th Engineer Group.

Thirty-seven people were treated for injuries ranging from lacerations to broken legs.

Still, the most amazing figure to some residents was the number of deaths — zero.

Authorities estimated the Labor Day tornado damaged 130 to 150 buildings in Rusk County, destroyed 26 businesses and at least 17 homes.

The tornado carved a path about 14 blocks long by four blocks wide through Ladysmith. It leveled a Baptist church and bent flag poles at 90-degree angles.

Wind reached speeds of up to 206 mph in the center of town, the National Weather Service said.

City officials estimated the damage at \$20.8 million.

"People walked up to shake our soldiers' hands and pat them on the back," Lewis said. "They really appreciated the National Guard's help."



Maj. Gen. (WI) Al Wilkening stands on the front-end loader as he greets members of the 264th Engineer Group while they help clear debris after the tornado that hit Ladysmith on Labor Day. Thirty-two Guardmembers were activated for five days.



A house along main street displays a sign of thanks to all the volunteers and Guardmembers who descended upon Ladysmith after a tornado caused an estimated \$20.8 million damage.

Top Badger Guard members receive award for military achievements

One hundred Wisconsin military men and women paused in their national defense duties Sunday, August 4 to accept thanks from their fellow citizens.

Top performers from the enlisted ranks of the seven reserve components—Army and Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve—received the Wisconsin Military Achievement Award in a ceremony at the state Capitol.

In a normal year, fifty service

members receive the award—but last year's ceremony, originally scheduled for October 2001, was postponed due to the events of Sept. 11. The 2001 and 2002 award winners shared the honors in a doubled ceremony this year.

Since Sept. 11, more than 1,000 Wisconsin members of the National Guard and Reserve have been ordered to active duty to support homeland security and overseas military operations. Nationally, nearly 80,000 members of the Guard and Reserve are now serving on active duty as part of the U.S. mili-

tary response to terrorism.

The Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards program started in 1964. More than 1,900 enlisted members of the reserve components in the state have been honored since the program began.

This year's program was made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin State Committee for Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve.

To qualify for the award, the enlisted service member must be assigned to a National Guard

or Reserve unit in Wisconsin, and must meet exceptionally high standards including proficiency in their military assignment, leadership ability, military appearance and public service. Awardees are nominated by the commanders and selected by military boards from their respective component.

Winners from the National Guard are shown as they received their awards.

Not pictured are Staff Sgt. Thomas K. Brehmer, Sgt. 1st Class Scot W. Cameron, Sgt.

Janelle K. Clark, Sgt. Sarah R. Cleveland, Spc. Wendy S. Cray, Sgt. Robert L. Cutts, Spc. Melissa G. Dams, Spc. Heather L. Denman, Sgt. Steven J. Ehrlich, Spc. Andrea D. Gebhardt, Master Sgt. August C. Hohl, Jr., Sgt. Ryan S. Lindberg, Spc. Michael P. Madden, Staff Sgt. Richard D. Meyer, Sgt. 1st Class Gregory B. Millard, Sgt. Roger A. Miller, Sgt. Chad A. Olson, Spc. James M. Schmitz, Master Sgt. Dawn J. Strassman, and Staff Sgt. Timothy M. Tippet. Lori Prieur accepted the award for her husband, Sgt. Keith M. Prieur.



Tech. Sgt. Kip A. Arity



Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer A. Barker



Staff Sgt. Brian D. Benzing



Sgt. Georgeget Bronk



Sgt. Jeremy R. Buenning



Sgt. William P. Frederick



Staff Sgt. Richard P. Gerard



Spc. Anthony J. Golner



Spc. Jill M. Hamm



Staff Sgt. Charles W. Huilman



Master Sgt. Timothy R. Ingraham



Sgt. 1st Class Rory R. Kempf



Master Sgt. Daniel L. Meneguini



Senior Airman James N. Michaels



Tech. Sgt. Don E. Milbach



Staff Sgt. Jb D. Moody



Sgt. Jason M. Nolet



Staff Sgt. Lisa N. Organ



Senior Master Sgt. Teddy T. Ostrowski



Cpl. David A. Pena



Sgt. Michelle L. Reines



Cpl. Shane W. Reines



Tech. Sgt. Richard R. Rolland



Sgt. 1st Class Ralph R. Rosemore



Master Sgt. Michael H. Skaer



Spc. Christopher M. Theis



Sgt. Jeffrey S. Todd



Sgt. Brent W. Voelker

And so the story goes...



Capt. Greg Senn, 147th Command Aviation Battalion, Wisconsin Army National Guard, reads "Lost in the Lost and Found" to Mrs. Fujikawa's third grade class at Emerson School in Madison. The school's third-grade classes held a "read-in" for TV Turnoff Week, April 22-28. Students spent the day doing various literacy activities—reading, sharing books, and listening to "Mystery Guest Readers," including Senn and Col. Jerry Olesen of Headquarters, Wisconsin Air National Guard. Photo courtesy of Kathleen Callen.

Guardmembers called to active duty recognized

The Department of Defense announced that servicemembers on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001 are eligible to receive the National Defense Service Medal.

"The sacrifices and contributions made by the Armed Forces in direct response to the terrorism attacks on the United States and to the long-term resolution of terrorism merit special recognition," said Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

The National Defense Service Medal may also be awarded to members of the Reserve components who are ordered to federal

active duty, regardless of duration, except for certain categories.

While no closing date has been established eligible servicemembers can receive the award immediately.

The National Defense Service Medal was first established by President Eisenhower in 1953, and was subsequently awarded for honorable active service for any period between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954, between Jan. 1, 1961 and Aug. 14, 1974 and between Aug. 2, 1990 and Nov. 30, 1995. The National Defense Service Medal is on the web at www.perscom.army.mil.

Noble Badger participants honored with medals

By Larry Sommers
At Ease Staff

The Wisconsin National Guard closed out its airport security operation, Task Force Noble Badger, with a May 31 luncheon and ceremony in Lake Delton honoring 96 state Guard members who participated.

Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, the adjutant general, addressed the troops, thanking them for their efforts, and presented medals to recognize their contributions.

The 96, volunteers from throughout the Wisconsin Army and Air Guard, received training in the airport security mission and took over on Oct. 11 for members of the 32nd Military Police Company who were initially activated by Gov. Scott McCallum's Sept. 27 call for troops. Their duties included patrolling and assisting

regular airport security personnel and local police at nine commercial airports in Appleton, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Mosinee, Oshkosh, Eau Claire, and Rhinelander.

Three soldiers received the Meritorious Service Medal, 11 were awarded the Army Commendation Medal, and 82 received the Army Achievement Medal. In addition, all will receive the National Defense Service Medal.

In appreciation of the Guard's services, Daniel Jensen, manager of the Dane County Regional Airport, presented a plaque from the Wisconsin Airport Managers Association to Lt. Col. Todd Nehls, task force commander. A Dane County Board resolution of thanks was presented to Blaney by Staff Sgt. Don Eggert, the Noble Badger administrative NCO. Gene Symons of Deluxe

Video Services was honored by the Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Chapa, who served at the Milwaukee airport, received a military coin from Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger of 1st Army.

Receiving the Meritorious Service Medal were Lt. Col. Todd Nehls, Task Force Noble Badger's commander; Maj. Brad Anderson, operations officer; and Command Sgt. Maj. Fred Emery, the command sergeant major.

Recipients of the Army Commendation Medal were Maj. David Boisen, Staff Sgt. Don Eggert, Lt. Col. Frederick Falk, Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Fredrickson, Staff Sgt. Terry Glysch, Master Sgt. Carolyn Guzman, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Komorowski Jr., 1st Sgt. William Nedd Jr., Capt. William Potterton, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Schnell, and Sgt. 1st Class Steven Wightman.

The Army Achievement Medal was awarded to Sgt. Jerome Austin, Spc. Steven Austin; Spc. Theresa Baerenwald, Cpl. Jeremy Bates, Sgt. Robert Bauer, Spc. Andrew Belflower, Cpl. Timothy Benjamin, Sgt. Warren Berg Jr., Sgt. Craig Bernarde, Pfc. Philip Betzhold, Sgt. Ethan Bolstad, Sgt. Joseph Bonilla, Spc. Marty Brill, Staff Sgt. Nels Brown, Sgt. Taje Burrows, Staff Sgt. John Bush, Cpl. Charles Careros, Sgt. Keith Casselbury, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Chapa, Spc. Anthony Chavez, Staff Sgt. Joseph Ciulla, Spc. Sarah Cleveland, Spc. Michael Cotrell Jr., Cpl. Jamie Cruz; Staff



Daniel Jensen, manager of the Dane County Regional Airport, holds a plaque from the Wisconsin Airport Managers Association in appreciation of the contributions of Task Force Noble Badger. With Jensen are, from left, Brig. Gen. James P. Daley, assistant adjutant general for readiness and training; Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, the adjutant general; and Brig. Gen. Albert H. Wilkening, deputy adjutant general for Air. Photo by Larry Sommers.

Sgt. Duane Dahlgren, Spc. Craig Doman, Sgt. James Doran, Staff Sgt. John Dungan; Spc. Jason Enstrom, Staff Sgt. Dennis Esser; Pfc. Daryl Fluker, Spc. Kirby Frank, Sgt. Keith Garbe, Sgt. Bryan Gehrett, Staff Sgt. Demetrius Gillyard, Spc. Matthew Gliszczinski, Spc. Adam Graser, Spc. Jason Grube, Spc. Joseph Gudleske; Cpl. Victor Hackbarth, Sgt. Colin Hackney, Staff Sgt. Scott Hale, Spc. Nicholas Harrison; Sgt. John Jarvey; Spc. Shaun Kelly, Cpl. Jason Kluka; Spc. Artis Landon, Cpl. Peter Leguizamon, Staff Sgt. Gary Leichtman, Staff Sgt. Warren Litz; Staff Sgt. Henry Marion, Sgt. Skye Mathaler, Staff Sgt. Jason Meyers, Spc. Scott

Miller, Sgt. Timothy Morris; Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Noffke; Sgt. Renee Olafson, Sgt. Chad Olson, Spc. Andrew Osegard, Pfc. Aurelio Otero Jr.; Spc. Brian Pagliaroni, Sgt. Rodney Pastorius, Spc. Victor Pollak, Staff Sgt. Carl Pregel Jr.; Cpl. Richard Regalado Jr., Sgt. Joshua Riemer, Spc. Jason Rife, Staff Sgt. Eric Risley, Cpl. Eric Robers; Spc. James Ruffalo, Spc. Victor Schlagenhaft, Spc. Robert Schroeder, Cpl. Rupert Serrano, Spc. Jeffrey Shimon, Spc. Robert Sumner; Sgt. Merlin Teidt, Cpl. Mark Turkiewicz; Sgt. Brent Voelker, Spc. Jeffrey Vorpahl; Spc. Adam Wallander, Sgt. Jason Wiesner; and Staff Sgt. Michael Zimmermann.



Staff Sgt. Don Eggert, right, administrative NCO, advises Staff Sgt. Joseph Ciulla during Noble Badger out-processing. Photo by Larry Sommers.

Challenged anglers get assist from Guard

By Mike Gourlie
At Ease Staff

More than 50 Wisconsin National Guard volunteers participated in the 2002 edition of the Fishing Has No Boundaries (FHNB, Inc.) outing at Governor Nelson State Park near Madison the weekend of July 12-14.

The event, in its eighth year in Madison, offered fishing opportunities for over 90 disabled Madison-area residents. Local volun-

teers donated their services and the use of more than 100 boats to make the outing possible. Guard members assisted with a pier launching Friday night and offered medical support, tent set-up, drinking water and assistance to anglers getting in and out of the boats.

FHNB is a Wisconsin-based organization with 14 chapters in eight states. Its origins go back to 1986 when Hayward resident Bobby Cammack experienced the frustrations of trying to fish from a

boat after breaking his leg. The first event was held in 1988 on the Chippewa Flowage near Hayward. Fourteen events are scheduled nationwide in 2002.

FHNB has relied on Wisconsin National Guard volunteers in each of the 8 years the event has taken place at Governor Nelson State Park.

"I don't know how we could manage without their assistance," said Anthonette Gilpatrick, co-chairperson of the Madison chapter.



ABOVE: Cpl. Heather Jones, a signal systems support specialist with the 1st Battalion, 147th Command Aviation, assists another FHNB volunteer in helping a disabled angler onto a pontoon boat Saturday at Governor Nelson State Park.

RIGHT: More than 90 disabled anglers tried to land the elusive one during a sunny July weekend on Lake Mendota in Madison. More than 50 Guard volunteers assisted Fishing Has No Boundaries.



Master Sgt. Mary Jo Naglus hoists from behind while Staff Sgt. James Valley lifts from the front to help a Fishing Has No Boundaries participant onto his boat during the annual event at Governor Nelson State Park the weekend of July 13-14. Both soldier volunteers serve with state Army Guard headquarters in Madison.



Guard hero rescues Minnesota family

By Larry Sommers
At Ease Staff

Infinity nearly came to an abrupt end April 1 — and would have, without the quick action of a Wisconsin Air National Guard member.

It happened on April Fool's Day, but it's no joke.

Staff Sgt. Jon Fremstad, 29, was headed to his job as a radar mechanic at

Volk Field's 128th Air Control Squadron. As he drove eastbound on Interstate 94 near the Millston, Wis., exit about 6:40 a.m., he saw a westbound sport utility vehicle swerve sharply off the road, roll down an embankment, and come to rest on its roof.

Fremstad dialed 911 on his cell phone as he made for the accident site. While describing the scene for the 911 dispatcher, he approached the upside-down 1995 GMC

Yukon on foot. A man, Michael Perez, injured and in shock, was "walking around screaming," according to Fremstad, and holding a 1-month infant, Chloe, in his arms. Neither the man nor the child had life-threatening injuries, but the airman saw a pair of legs sticking out from under the vehicle's hood.

Fremstad — wearing military BDUs, his usual work outfit — crawled under the Yukon and found that the legs were attached to a woman, Ruthie Hopkins, 21, of St. Cloud, Minn., who was pinned by the hood. He ran to his own car for a jack, returned and jacked up the front of the SUV to get it off the woman.

With the aid of a second motorist who had stopped to help, Fremstad pulled Hopkins from under the car. Hopkins, screaming in pain, was later found to have a broken pelvis.

"There was gasoline leaking from the car, freon and all kinds of things," Fremstad said. "Ideally, you would leave her in position, but we knew we had to get her out of there."

Both Hopkins and Perez were shouting about their other children. Fremstad quickly found 1-year-old Melvin, standing on the ceiling inside the overturned vehicle. He seemed to be okay except for some bleeding near one eye.

But Perez, still holding baby Chloe, kept shouting, "Fini! Fini!" This turned out to be Infinity, the couple's 3-year-old daughter.

Fremstad began a swift search for Infinity.

Another motorist had stopped to help, and the Air Guard NCO directed the two of them to search the area around the car, thinking the little girl may have been thrown clear of the wreckage. When the two civilians returned with nothing to report, it dawned on Fremstad that Infinity must be directly under the Yukon's roof.

"At that point," he said, "I thought we were going to find the little girl dead, and there was no way the man (Perez) should be allowed to see that. So I had one of the two helpers talk to him and keep him occupied while we looked for the girl."

They found the child's location by spotting a small hand and part of a sleeve protruding from under the roof. Lowering the jacked-up front portion of the car, Fremstad retrieved his jack and used it

to lift the car off the child.

"We were able to jack the roof up about a foot," he said in a later written report. "We then carefully pulled the child out."

"The child looked bad. She had blood coming out of her nose and her eyes were starting to roll back into her head. Her body was completely limp."

Neither Fremstad nor the assisting motorist could find a definite pulse, and Infinity did not seem to be breathing. So the airman started cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). It was "better than looking at her and feeling helpless," he said.

Just then, Wisconsin State Trooper George Riedel arrived on the scene. Making eye contact with the laboring Fremstad, he came over immediately, and the two worked as a team, with Riedel doing chest compressions and Fremstad giving mouth-to-mouth breaths. After a while, they switched roles. By the time paramedics arrived, the child had a strong heartbeat but was still not breathing on her own. The paramedics, with oxygen equipment, took over at that point.

Riedel and Sheriff's deputies helped Fremstad clean himself up as he briefed them on the sequence of events. He then continued his drive and reported to work about an hour later, feeling glad he had been able to help, but fearing his help would not be enough to save Infinity.

"I grew up on a farm, and I've seen a lot of dead things," he later told the LaCrosse Tribune's Randy Erickson. "She was dead."

Maybe so, but true to her name, Infinity just wouldn't quit.

Three days after the accident, Fremstad and Trooper Riedel paid a call on Infinity and her family at the Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in LaCrosse. The little girl was sore and had suffered a concussion; she had no memory of the accident. But she was awake, lively, and definitely on the mend. "She's quite a little character," said Fremstad.

"That made my day," Riedel told the reporter. "That was the first time I'd got a heart beating. The sergeant made it all possible."

Both men drew the same lesson from the event: Buckle up.

"Use your seat belts, use your child restraints," Riedel said. "They work."



Ruthie Hopkins and her 3-year-old daughter, Infinity, meet the men who saved Infinity's life after a car crash, Wisconsin State Trooper George Riedel, left, and Wisconsin Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Jon Fremstad, at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in LaCrosse. LaCrosse Tribune photo by Dick Riniker, used by permission.

Red Arrow comes out of the woods



After 10 days of living, sleeping, eating and training in the woods of Fort McCoy, the members of 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade, end their annual training with a 15-mile road march back to their buildings. Photo by CPT Jacqueline Guthrie.

Guard members always ready

By Larry Sommers
At Ease Staff

Guard heroes are made, not born.

Staff Sgt. Jon Fremstad is the latest in a long line of soldiers and airmen who knew what to do in life-threatening situations because of Guard training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), accident response and leadership. For example:

■ In January, Master Sgt. Michael Post, an accessories element supervisor with the 115th Fighter Wing, rescued an unconscious driver from a burning car and then calmed a passenger who remained trapped in the vehicle until help arrived. "Post's actions were not only selfless and courageous, but reflected the finest traditions of citizen-soldier service to the public," said retired Navy Capt. Donald Bach, who also offered assistance at the scene.

■ In October 2001, Sgt. Brent W. Voelker, a member of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, stepped in to save a toddler who was choking on a piece of candy at the Green Bay airport. Gov.

Scott McCallum awarded Voelker the Wisconsin Commendation Medal in recognition of his action.

■ In July 2001, Tech. Sgt. Keith Atkins, an F-16 crew chief with the 115th, pulled an elderly driver from a burning car, saving him from immediate death although the man later died of his injuries.

■ The previous winter, two 115th Fighter Wing airmen — Staff Sgt. Steven French and Tech. Sgt. Daniel Bryant — received the Air Force Achievement Medal for assisting with the rescue of a young drowning victim while they were deployed to the Caribbean island of Curacao.

■ Chief Warrant Officer Scott Lundeberg, a logistics officer in Army Guard state headquarters, was honored by the American Red Cross for aiding a heart attack victim in a Sun Prairie supermarket checkout line. "Now I know why I keep the CPR up," Lundeberg said. "It's great to have saved a life."

■ Staff Sgt. Mark Peterson, a member of Company B, 173rd Engineer Battalion, received the Soldier's Medal for the May 1997 swimming rescue of two

men and a 3-year-old girl from the swirling waters of the Chippewa River.

The common theme: Wisconsin National Guard members, when faced with a crisis, acted immediately and took charge where needed, to steer a team effort to a happy outcome. These military qualities of initiative and leadership come from their National Guard training and experience.

Wisconsin Guard members get frequent training in first aid and other lifesaving skills, and many take part in mock disaster drills to gain experience with emergency situations.

"I've worked exercises on major accident response," Fremstad said, "where the emphasis is on triage. And that's primarily what this accident was — triage."

Upon arriving at the scene, Fremstad quickly assessed who was in most urgent need of care. His search led him to Ruthie Hopkins, pinned in the wreckage, and, shortly afterwards, to her daughter Infinity, who was trapped under the vehicle.

"I just kept saying, 'Is there anybody else? Am I overlooking anybody?'"

Chontales

Continued from Page 1

goodwill will last for years, according to the task force commander, Lt. Col. Patrick Gallagher, Superior. "Our primary military objective," Gallagher said, "was to offer 2,400 soldiers the opportunity to perform real world missions in an austere environment."

"This training included the logistical challenges of moving personnel and equipment outside the United States and experiencing the cultural diversity of service in a foreign land," he said. At the same time these soldiers, primarily engineers and medical professionals, "performed tasks similar to those they would perform during war."

"It's one of those rare win-win situations," Gallagher said.

In addition to the humanitarian missions and the realistic training, the third "win" was the fact the U.S. military forces worked hand-in-hand with the Nicaraguan military, according to Gallagher.

"Initially, there was a high level of distrust between the civilian populace and members of

the military," Gallagher said, "all primarily due to past experiences."

"The initial reaction was, 'Why are you here?'" Even after community meetings explaining the missions and intent of the exercise, "it took several weeks to secure the trust that the humanitarian missions were not a cover-up for some other type of sinister objective," Gallagher said.

The U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, Oliver P. Garza, wrote, in a letter to the task force, that "the results of your work will have a lasting impact on the direction and success of our relations with the Nicaraguan government."

Garza also expressed optimism that the efforts will result in the "official full implementation of the State Partnership Program between the State of Wisconsin and the Nicaraguan government."

That partnership opens the door for future relations between the Wisconsin Army National Guard and Nicaragua. Program objectives include promotion of democratic institutions, fostering open market economies, promoting the concept of a military re-



Specialist Daniel Cummings, a Colorado Army National Guard medic, and a Nicaraguan soldier help an elderly woman get assistance at the La Gateada Medical Readiness Training Exercise. The woman says she is 107 years old.

sponsive to civilian authority and instituting humanitarian values.

The task force also was able to assist the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners, a non-governmental organization, with the distribu-

tion of donated clothing and equipment to local inhabitants.

"I cannot believe there could be more of a professional challenge than this one ever again in my career," Gallagher said. "It pre-

pared most of us for just about anything that could be thrown at us and increased our readiness to respond to all missions, humanitarian or military, we may be called on to perform."



Lt. Col. Pat Gallagher, Superior, Joint Task Force Chontales commander and a member of the Wisconsin Army National Guard, talks about the five-month humanitarian exercise he led in Nicaragua. The deployment resulted in the construction of four schools, six medical clinics and four wells, and the performance of over 32,000 medical procedures for the local inhabitants.



Aerial view of an engineer base camp in Nicaragua, part of Joint Task Force Chontales. Wisconsin Army National Guard photo.

Stay in good standing to keep tuition grant

By Larry Sommers
At Ease Staff

If you fail to maintain a "C" average or are separated from the Guard for misconduct — such as skipping training assemblies — you can expect to repay the amount of your Wisconsin National Guard Tuition Grant, according to a recent fine tuning of the program by the state legislature.

"Wisconsin continues to offer an excellent 100 percent tuition grant program," said Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, the adjutant general. "It's only natural that the taxpayers expect our troops who use this benefit to hit the books and also meet their obligations as Guard members."

Under the changes, a Guard member who is absent without leave from more than nine unit

training assemblies will be required to pay back the tuition grant. The same requirement would be imposed on a Guard member who earned less than a 2.0 or "C" average during the semester for which reimbursement was paid.

Soldiers and airmen using the program should also be aware that the school must be one which qualifies under federal regulations; that application for the grant must be made within 90 days after completion of the course; and that a separate application, on Department of Military Affairs (DMA) Form 189, must be submitted for each semester of work completed.

Any questions about the administration of these grants may be directed to Karen Behling, grant specialist, at 608-242-3159.

All in the family



Temporary assignments brought together three fighter-pilot Kensick brothers — one Air Guard, one active-Air Force, one Navy — on a training mission over the Florida Gulf Coast in June. Capt. Dave Kensick flies an F-16 Falcon for the Wisconsin Air Guard's 115th Fighter Wing, Capt. Mike Kensick is an F-15 Eagle pilot for the 71st Fighter Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Va., and Navy Lt. Steve Kensick flies F-18 Hornets for VFA-22 at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Ammons, courtesy of National Guard magazine.

Well, actually...it IS rocket science!

Story and photos
by Tom Michele
At Ease Staff

Nearly 400 soldiers stood, in full-battalion formation, in a parking lot off a tank trail at Fort McCoy on June 8. Three new Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) tracked launchers rolled in and parked herringbone-fashion right smack in front of the entire assembly. They were trailed by three Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks (HEMTTs), which serve as refuelers, ammo carriers and wreckers for the system.

Although the 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery troops have been preparing for the conversion from M-109A5 self-propelled howitzers for two years, for many of the soldiers it was the first glance at the new equipment.

Launcher operators elevated and rotated the rocket tube casing. It was a reminder of the images seen on CNN during Operation Desert Storm, this time live and in person. Some soldiers managed to get up close, to kick the tires — or rather, tracks — sit in the cab and comment about their new tools.

"We began checking in the first nine MLRS launchers delivered for the battalion's conversion on May," said Capt. Steven Sherrod, battalion administrative officer.

The battalion completed Phase One of its soldier training on the new equipment by distance learning, CD-ROM and internet technology (see story below). The unit's first live fire of the system is set for June 2003

at Annual Training. In this summer's AT, soldiers got into Phase Two of their training, to complete Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) reclassification. Soldiers who had been in MOS 13B (crewman) retrained to 13M (launcher crewmember), and 13C and 13E computer operators became 13P fire direction center crew members, working with different software.

The 2002 AT included hands-on instruction. The 13M trainees spent two weeks in classroom and in the motor pool with the launchers. The 13P trainees spent three weeks in classroom training learning the fire direction system Version 2 computer program that will operate on currently-fielded lightweight computer units.

"The majority of our soldiers are not MOS-qualified," Sherrod said in June. "That 13 series training and schooling that will be conducted in July and August is our main goal this AT."

Also during this period, battery commanders, platoon leaders, first sergeants and battalion staff attended a 10-day cadre course to learn MLRS tactics and techniques. Other soldiers are attending schools nation-wide to reclassify to MLRS-oriented maintenance MOSs.

"During the monthly drills of 2002-03 we will be trained by a visiting MLRS team," Sherrod said. "The team will be working with our soldiers to prepare them for platoon certification lanes at 2003 Annual Training. At the conclusion of that AT, the soldiers, sections and platoons will be qualified to perform their wartime mission and the battalion will continue to train to maintain this level of proficiency."



One of the MLRS launchers assigned to 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery, pulls up in front of the battalion formation at Fort McCoy.

to train to maintain this level of proficiency."

For individual soldiers, the MLRS conversion means a potential for a higher operations tempo, more full-time job openings, more M-day opportunities annually and possible training at the National Training Center, Sherrod said.

"We have nine launchers and are getting nine more," said Lt. Col. Jeff Clark, battalion commander. "There will be six assigned to each of three batteries, Alpha, Bravo and Charlie. Each firing battery also has its associated ammunition, maintenance, food service, supply and

communications sections." The battalion also has its headquarters and headquarters service (HHS) battery. HHS and Battery A are in Milwaukee, Battery B in Plymouth with a detachment in Two Rivers, and Battery C in Sussex.

"Any time you can get better technology you will be better off," Clark said. "I am happy with the modernization from howitzers to rockets."

The importance of the conversion, he said, is that MLRS "provides the maneuver commander with a great deal more firepower."

The MLRS includes two types of rockets and launchers. One launcher can carry 12 rockets, each with a payload of grenades that are hurled 30-40 kilometers. The other version carries two larger rockets of the Army Tactical Missile (ATACM) system, capable of flying about 150 kilometers. The ATACMs are potentially able to carry heat-seeking projectiles.

Several battalion soldiers attending the June 8-9 drill assembly expressed their pleasure with the conversion.

"I enjoy being part of the new MLRS," said Spc. Kelly Shurilla, a gunner. "I like my job

because it's a chance to learn actual skills and teach new soldiers. I was very proud to have been battle-ready in the active Army. So, this is all a lot of motivation for me, and a chance to meet new people." A resident of the Milwaukee suburb of Brown Deer, Shurilla is a student and also a landscaper. He had two years active Army service, took a five-month separation, then joined the Wisconsin Guard last November.

Sgt. Jason Wiesner said, "I had four years active duty and have been in the Guard four years. I like the camaraderie, being a soldier and serving our country." As a civilian, Wiesner, Manitowoc, is a truck driver for Conveyance, a general freight hauler.

Pvt. Brandon Enright, a launcher driver, said, "I like the entire Army experience. I've only been in one-and-a-half years." Enright, Cedar Grove, has been in the ammo section and is now converting to launcher driver. He is a nursing student at Lakeshore Technical College.

"It's taking some getting used to," Cpl. Chad Spitz, Waldo, said — "but I'm happy with the technological upgrade. It is requiring us to take on more knowledge. I love the Guard."



An MLRS launcher rolls into a parking lot near cantonment at Fort McCoy June 8.

MLRS troops learn new trade in distance labs

By Bob Giblin
At Ease Staff

Training for the conversion from 155 mm self-propelled howitzers to Multiple Launch Rocket Systems began with a key-stroke, not a bang, for Guard soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery.

Howitzer crews and fire direction control specialists began training for their new mission and equipment in March and April, using computer laboratories at the Richards Street armory in Milwaukee and at Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland, Wis.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Jamie Preder, a platoon sergeant with Battery B, the distance learning approach saves the unit time, money and hassles, compared with the traditional approach — sending soldiers to the artillery "school house" at Fort Sill, Okla.

The first phase of retraining focused on equipment familiarization. Preder explained Soldiers were exposed to the training material at least three times. The first

was a live-feed, on-screen training program, linked to instructors at Fort Sill. The live feed could accommodate Powerpoint presentations and video feeds, live conversations, and text messages. During this part of the training, soldiers could interact with the instructors and ask questions using a live audio link.

Then soldiers reviewed each training module, working at their own speed, using CD-ROMs at individual computer stations. The third exposure was a test or quiz taken at the computer stations. Results of the tests were available immediately; and if necessary, soldiers could review the instruction and take the tests again.

Battery B conducted its training at Lakeshore Technical College, while other batteries trained at the Richards Street armory.

"This was the first time we've conducted training this way," Preder said, "and it has gone smoothly. Because of the bandwidth, we had no delays."

One risk of distance learning is the potential for lost communications, but the unit

had a backup plan. "All of the presentation materials were here, on computer disks," Preder said, "and if necessary, we could run the presentation materials here and conduct the live training via conference call."

His only criticism was downtime. As one or two classes were taking live instruction or working through the self-paced CD-ROM program, one class was on "admin" time. Unlike a regular classroom, where a class size of 20 or so soldiers is optimum for live instruction, Preder felt that the distance learning classrooms may not have required such tight limits.

1st Lt. Jeremy Feucht agreed with Preder's assessments.

"It's pretty slick," Feucht said. "It gets the job done. The first phase is really for familiarization, and as far as that goes, it couldn't be much more efficient. Given the time constraints that we all feel, it was good to conduct this training here, on drill weekends, rather than sending the entire unit to Fort Sill."

"So far, so good," was the reaction of

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Czekala, a platoon sergeant with 18 years of Guard service. Czekala last visited Fort Sill in 1984, for artillery advanced individual training.

"It's nice to have face-to-face time with instructors, but that's not always possible," he said. "It's a great idea to conduct training this way — bringing Fort Sill to us via computer, versus bringing the unit to Fort Sill."

"The CD-ROMs were excellent, and I like the ability to go through them at your own pace. Some were able to click straight through, and others could review the material over and over again until they got it. The training modules are very complete, and presented at a good level."

Phase II of the training, which includes hands-on exposure to the MLRS, was conducted at Fort McCoy as part of the unit's annual training (see above story). In Phase III, instructors from Fort Sill will visit the batteries during monthly drills to conduct platoon certification. The unit probably won't have an opportunity to live fire until Annual Training in 2003.

Red Arrow Brigade lightens up

Story and Photos
By Jim Wagner
At Ease Staff



Spc. John Brueske, 28, a combat engineer with the 32nd Engineer Company, takes aim with a .50-caliber machine gun. All units that are part of a light infantry brigade, including engineer companies, will need to hone infantry warfighting skills.



Brig. Gen. James Daley, left, assistant adjutant general for readiness and training, goes through infantry movement scenarios with Maj. Tim Lawson, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry executive officer.

In what may have been the most important Wisconsin Army National Guard annual training period in years, soldiers from the 32nd Brigade began the demanding transition from mechanized to light infantry at Fort McCoy June 8-22.

The changing face of modern warfare, from the massive two-front wartime scenarios of the Cold War era to regional conflicts such as Bosnia and Afghanistan, prompted the change in mission. According to experts, the wars of tomorrow won't be fought by tank divisions and massive artillery pieces on large battlefields, but by foot soldiers and light vehicles in confined areas such as city streets and houses.

Tanks and other heavy armaments are expected to have little place in the planning process of future wars. That was not good news for the Wisconsin Army National Guard, which was based upon the M-1A1 Abrams tank and 155 mm howitzers in support of a mechanized infantry unit, the 32nd Infantry Brigade. Therefore, two years ago, the state's top Guard leaders decided the 32nd Brigade must evolve before becoming extinct.

Last year, units throughout Wisconsin took part in a major reorganization to abandon tanks and other tracked vehicles in favor of a more traditional mode of transportation — foot power.

The switch requires a completely different mindset in operations for everyone involved, from battalion commanders down to infantry squad members. Units with one specific mission now have to incorporate the additional duties of light infantry. During annual training, the work in progress was evident on Fort McCoy's ranges.

According to Brig. Gen. James Daley, assistant adjutant general for readiness and training,

every unit performed extremely well despite the difficulties of the transition.

Two of the biggest difficulties, he said, were units operating under the new guidelines of a light infantry unit and soldiers not yet qualified to perform the mission. Many did not participate at annual training this year because they used their time to attend schooling.

The goal of this year's training — introducing units to their new missions — was just the first step in the continuing transition to light infantry.

Perhaps the biggest change for units participating in this year's exercise was in how troops are moved from point A to point B. In going light infantry, Wisconsin units lost their armored personnel carriers and tanks, the primary troop transports. In all, the brigade lost 475 tracked vehicles, representing \$320 million in transportation assets.

"The biggest challenge was the management of our assets and to make sure they were mission capable," said Maj. Richard Zierath, 32nd Brigade logistics officer. "Before, we provided our own transportation, but now troops were relying on other people to move them."

Now, brigade elements all coordinate their movements through Company A, 132nd Support Battalion. This added layer of liaison created some initial confusion, but brigade transportation officials said that was worked out after the first week.

One of the early challenges last year, when the brigade was reorganized, was the far-flung location of the 27 five-ton trucks used for troop and equipment transport. Now, the vehicles have been moved to three regional armories (in Waupaca, Eau Claire and Janesville) serving geographic areas of the brigade.

Centralizing the vehicle support also led to streamlining the vehicle request process, which is

still a work in progress. Eventually, all vehicle requests will go through one point of contact, using a digitized computer request process. Although officials will not be able to make the purchases until Sept. 1, when the 32nd is officially recognized as a light infantry brigade, every unit is authorized to have its own laptop or PC to make real-time requests and get real-time feedback.

As individual sections get their operations in order, units can expect the bar to be raised to provide realistic training. Standards will be tougher next year with the addition of training tailored to the new mission. One issue under consideration by commanders, which may produce a groan from some soldiers, is the requirement to wear armored flak vests on Fort McCoy's ranges.

Studies show injuries caused by enemy artillery fire are significantly reduced when soldiers wear flak vests. The heavy, stifling vests are also standard issue on any deployment overseas. "It's better that people get used to it now," Daley said.

"This is only a start, it's going to get more challenging next year," Daley said. "This is a toughening process, to the way the infantry should be."

The end result, Daley said, will be a better-trained, mobile fighting force that defies the negative stereotype of the infantryman and will keep and bring in more people to the infantry ranks.

"I get snickers, but an infantryman needs to be a smart guy," he said. "It takes someone with courage and fortitude. We're going to lose some people because it's going to be a lot tougher, but we have a standard to keep."

"And you know what? We're going to get people who come in because this is what they want to do. It happens every time: The soldier will complain to his friends about all the stuff he had to do, and next month he brings in a friend to share in his misery."

Koehler, ex-57th CSM, will head Retiree Council

By Larry Sommers
At Ease Staff

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Lowell Koehler, Sun Prairie, will head the Wisconsin National Guard Retiree Council beginning Oct. 1. Koehler, former senior enlisted advisor for the 57th Field Artillery Brigade, will take over from retired Air Guard Col. Kenneth Sweet, president of the council for the past five years.

"We want to continue to do an excellent job of communicating with the retiree population of the Wisconsin National Guard," Koehler said, "to make sure they are getting all the benefits they deserve and all the rewards of their service."

The council's objectives, according to its bylaws, are:

1. To advise, support and assist the Adjutant General... in maintaining a strong Wisconsin National Guard.
2. To provide a channel for interaction between active members, retired members and surviving spouses of the Wisconsin National Guard.
3. To provide a focal point for contact between organizations with retiree concerns, the Wisconsin National Guard retired community and the Adjutant General's Office.

4. To offer assistance to National Guard units in developing and maintaining rapport with their local communities.

The council sponsors a biennial Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort McCoy, featuring seminars and exhibits on retiree benefits, including Social Security and military health insurance programs such as CHAMPUS,

Tri-Care and Tri-Care for Life. The appreciation day also provides an opportunity for social interaction and gives retirees and spouses an easy way to update their ID cards. The next Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for October 10-11, 2003.

Once a year the council also sends a general mailing to Wisconsin National Guard retirees with information on the appreciation day and other council programs.

"We all share the concern that our Guard retirees and their families should receive all the benefits they have earned by serving their fellow citizens," said Brig. Gen. Al Wilkening, Wisconsin's new adjutant general. "These folks are among our greatest assets in continuing to make the Wisconsin National Guard responsive to the needs of the state and nation, and the Retiree Council plays a vital role in keeping them informed and well-served."



Koehler

'Just try it, Osama!'



Showing the Flag — A deployed squad of the 128th Security Forces Squadron from Milwaukee General Mitchell International Airport stands ready to defend U.S. interests at an undisclosed location. Wisconsin Air National Guard photo.

At Ease tops in Guard (but you knew already, right?)

By At Ease Staff

Results of the 2001 National Guard Bureau Media contest are in, and At Ease has won first place among large Army-funded newspapers. At Ease staffers also won specific awards. Tom Doherty, a retired At Ease staffer, won first place in the Story Series category for Wisconsin Guard history articles republished as "The Way We Were." (see p. 12, this issue) In the Feature Article category Mike Callen received second place for "Guard engineer helps Indochina, builds bridges to region's future," Spring 2001. Larry Sommers took 2nd place in the Commentary category for

his editorial in the November 2001 issue. The third place prize in Photojournalism was awarded to Steve Olson for "229th engineers reshape Wisconsin terrain" from the November 2001 issue.

The Secretary of the Army sponsors this competition annually. The Office of the Chief of Public Affairs conducts judging with a goal of ensuring the best internal information efforts receive recognition for professional excellence and outstanding achievement. The competition is also designed for professional development, with constructive feedback flowing from the judges to the participants.



Kelly Pensinger, publications editor, examines a copy of At Ease, first place award-winning paper in the 2001 National Guard Bureau media contest. Looking over her shoulder are individual award winners, from left, Mike Callen, Tom Doherty, Steve Olson and Larry Sommers. Photo by Tim Donovan.

Changes...

Leadership of two Army Guard major commands and three battalions changed during the past several months.

Col. Arthur Zuleger took command of the Chippewa Falls-based 264th Engineer Group in May. Zuleger, who will continue his full-time assignment as director of personnel and administration in the state headquarters, succeeds Col. Michael Williams, who retired.

Col. James Roth became the new commander of 64th Troop Command, Madison, in June. Roth succeeded Col. Terry Bortz, who is now assigned to Headquarters, State Area Command where he will continue his position as director of human resources.

Three Wisconsin Army National Guard battalions have new commanders:

■ Lt. Col. Peter Seaholm assumed command of 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, Wisconsin Rapids, in July. Seaholm succeeded Lt. Col. Mark Mathwig, who will become full-time administrative officer for 64th Troop Command in Madison. Lt. Col. Kevin Greenwood, who had been the troop command administrative officer, will be reassigned as state recruiting and retention manager in October. The current recruiting force commander, Lt. Col. Robert Ronge, will become deputy director of personnel and administration.

■ Lt. Col. Kenneth Koon is the new commander of 1st Battalion, 426th Regiment at Fort McCoy, succeeding Lt. Col. Joseph McGrath. Koon also became full-time administrative officer at the Wisconsin Military Academy. McGrath is now assigned to Headquarters, State Area Command.

■ Lt. Col. Tim Donovan took command of 2nd Battalion, 426th Regiment



Zuleger



Roth



Neumann

at Fort McCoy in April. Donovan succeeded Lt. Col. Ramona Kane-Blaney, who was promoted to the rank of colonel and assigned as deputy commander of the 13th Medical and Dental Detachment in Madison. Kane-Blaney succeeds Col. Kathy Carlson, who will be assigned to the state headquarters.

Another change put Lt. Col. Darrel Feucht in command of the 64th Rear Operations Center in Monroe. Feucht succeeded Lt. Col. Keith Kunkel, who is now assigned to 64th Troop Command as executive officer.

Five Wisconsin Army Guard officers were recently promoted to the rank of colonel in their current positions: Col. Thomas Gregar is director of surface maintenance; Col. Timothy Pfrang is state training officer; Col. Scott Legwold is director of information management; Col. Bryan Much is director of plans, operations, training and intelligence in the state headquarters; and Col. Steven Beyer is assistant chief of staff for the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Two Wisconsin Air Guard officers have also been promoted to the rank of colonel. Cols. Gunther Neumann and James Malenke were promoted to their present ranks in April. Neumann is assigned as commander of Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center and Malenke is operations group commander for the Milwaukee-based 128th Air Refueling Wing.

Wisconsin Guard legend gets honorary promotion to colonel

Herb Smith pins on eagles for 99th birthday

By Tim Donovan
At Ease Staff

Retired Lt. Col. Herbert M. Smith, Neillsville, was promoted to the rank of full colonel in the Wisconsin Army National Guard May 9 in a ceremony at the Neillsville National Guard Armory. What made the promotion different from most is that Smith has been retired from military service for nearly 60 years and that this promotion took place on his 99th birthday.

Smith was only 16 years old when he enlisted into the Wisconsin State Guard on June 12, 1919, while the Wisconsin Guard's 32nd Division was still on active duty as part of the occupation force in post-World War I Germany. When the 32nd Division was reconstituted in Wisconsin later in 1919, Smith continued his service in the Neillsville-based Guard rifle company until 1926, when he was commissioned a second lieutenant and assigned as a supply officer in

the 128th Infantry Regiment's Service Company.

When the 32nd Division was mobilized on Oct. 15, 1940, Smith entered active duty and, in April 1942, shipped overseas with most of the division to Australia.

In October 1942, then-Maj. Smith was assigned commander of 2nd Battalion, 126th Infantry as the unit was beginning a grueling, 100-mile march over Papua New Guinea's Owen Stanley Mountains into the Battle of Buna. There, his battalion and other 32nd Division elements fought the first U.S. Army offensive operation in the Southwest Pacific. One week into the battle, Smith was wounded in action and evacuated.

Smith was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel on Jan. 7, 1943, but because of his wounds he was separated from the service the following year.

Smith's service both in the peacetime National Guard and

the wartime 32nd Division was exemplary. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by order of Gen. Douglas MacArthur for heroism in action at Buna.

In 1990, Gov. Tommy Thompson awarded him the Wisconsin National Guard Distinguished Service Medal.

Smith was promoted to the honorary rank of full colonel in the Wisconsin Army National Guard by Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, the adjutant general of Wisconsin.

In honor of Smith's promotion, Gov. Scott McCallum issued a proclamation to make May 9, 2002 "Colonel Herbert M. Smith Recognition Day" in the state of Wisconsin. The proclamation noted that Smith held his previous rank for the past 59 years and four months — "far too long to be a lieutenant colonel."

In the proclamation, McCallum encouraged all past and present members of the Wisconsin National Guard "to recognize Col. Smith for the many achievements of his distinguished military career and to wish him good health and best wishes for the future."



Herb Smith holds a 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry coin presented to him following his promotion to the honorary rank of full colonel in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in May. Photo by Eric Young of the Marshfield News-Herald.

Ten added to Wisconsin Army Guard Hall of Honor

By Larry Sommers
At Ease Staff

Ten outstanding soldiers joined the Wisconsin Army National Guard Hall of Honor in a ceremony at the state Capitol on Sunday, April 7.

The second annual induction ceremony included remarks by Lt. Gov. Margaret Farrow and music by the 132nd Army Band. Awards were presented by Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, the adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. Kerry G. Denson, deputy adjutant general for Army. This year's inductees were:

Col. Donald A. Anderson, a key officer with the 32nd Division during its activation for the 1961 Berlin crisis;

Maj. Gen. Waldemar "Fritz" Breidster, deceased, a West Point graduate who had wide-ranging responsibilities in the China-Burma-India theater in World War II and later commanded the 32nd Division;

Chief Warrant Officer Robert J. DeGroot, one of the few to rise to both the top enlisted and top warrant officer ranks;

Chief Warrant Officer Patricia A. Gundlach, who was the first coordinator of the Wisconsin National Guard Family Pro-

gram in the 1980s;

Col. Arthur J. Kessenich, deceased, a veteran staff officer in World War II, the Berlin crisis of 1961, and afterwards;

Maj. Gen. Raymond A. Matera, a Marine aerial gunner and infantryman in World War II and Air Force fighter pilot in Korea, who fostered the interests of the Wisconsin Army Guard while serving as the state's adjutant general in the 1980s;

Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence W. Murray, a veteran noncommissioned officer who held the top enlisted post in the 32nd "Red Arrow" Brigade;

Chief Warrant Officer William A. Reiter Jr., deceased, who served for decades in his hometown Guard unit in Chippewa Falls and was mobilized both for World War II and the Berlin crisis;

Sgt. Maj. Wayne W. Sedgwick, who served with special distinction developing and teaching training courses over a 41-year Guard career; and

Brig. Gen. Barry W. Young, an armor battalion commander who became deputy adjutant general and fought for important new facilities and training opportunities for the Wisconsin Army National Guard.



Donald A. Anderson



Waldemar F. Breidster



Robert J. DeGroot



Patricia A. Gundlach



Arthur J. Kessenich



Raymond A. Matera



Lawrence W. Murray



William A. Reiter Jr.



Wayne W. Sedgwick



Barry W. Young

WMA Hall of Fame inducts four more

By Tom Michele
At Ease Staff

There are four new members of the Wisconsin Military Academy (WMA) Hall of Fame.

Brig. Gen. Roger Greenwood, Lt. Col. Charles Cornils, Chief Warrant Officer Charles Ludeking and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Meister, all retired, were inducted by Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, the adjutant general, in a ceremony June 9 at Fort McCoy. They join 14 inductees from previous years.

Greenwood served as the tenth WMA commandant from August 1987 to March 1990. He was responsible for starting two new programs — the professional development course for officers and warrant officers receiving direct commissions or appointments, and the winter survival course. Many students and staff members said the winter survival course

pushed them further physically and mentally than at any time in their lives and was the most rewarding course they ever took. Maj. Joseph Pintarro, WMA training site administrator, serving as master of ceremonies, said Greenwood was a role model for others to emulate through his leadership, military bearing and total dedication to service and country.

Cornils, who served as assistant commandant from 1977 to 1981, was instrumental in increasing the WMA staff with a 10-soldier cell of Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) personnel. Cornils also worked at upgrading the Officer Candidate School (OCS) program and added winter training and water survival training to it.

Ludeking was WMA's supply sergeant from 1970 to 1978. He then became assistant operations sergeant until 1981. His energy, ability and overall knowledge in the

logistical arena transformed the academy's supply function from a challenged area to an area of strength, according to Pintarro. He also implemented improved testing and security procedures.

Meister became a pillar of the academy staff during OCS annual training periods from 1967 to 1987. He led the aggressor force; he and his team were experts in guerrilla tactics. According to Pintarro, he was an outstanding mentor to young soldiers, many of whom said they learned more about tactics and soldiering in 15 days with him than they had in their previous military careers.

"Over the past 44 years, the WMA has been richly blessed to have the caliber of individuals represented by our inductees," said Col. James Olson, commander of the 426th Regiment. "They have served, and continue to serve, as models of leadership, dedication and a soldier-caring ethic."



Four new inductees were welcomed into the Wisconsin Military Hall of Fame June 9 at Fort McCoy. From left are Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, the adjutant general; inductees Roger Greenwood, Charles Cornils, Charles Ludeking, and Donald Meister; and Col. James Olson, commander, 426th Regiment. Photo by Tom Michele.

Volk Training Complex now open

By Mike Callen
At Ease Staff

Lieutenant Governor Margaret Farrow and Maj. Gen. James Blaney opened a new \$7.6 million lodging and meeting center at the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center on May 4.

The complex, which combines the functions of several old buildings in a single new building, was funded by the Air Force Quality of Life Program to better serve the personnel who deploy to the Volk Field each year.

"This complex will provide visiting units with a top-notch training facility that sets the standard for support of deployed units," said Col. Gunther Neumann, commander of the Combat Readiness Training Center.

The lodging section has 232 beds in 120 dormitory-style rooms. It also has laundry facilities, lounges, meeting rooms and office space. The attached conference room can be configured to hold up to 300 people or be subdivided into four smaller rooms, each equipped with the latest audiovisual equipment and training aids.

"Our training areas — ranges, flight line and other flight training areas — have been among the best in the Air Force for many years," said Neumann, "and we can now provide our customers with lodging and training facilities that are second to none."

Flying and non-flying units from all branches and components of the armed services, as well as other state and federal agencies, use Volk Field for training.

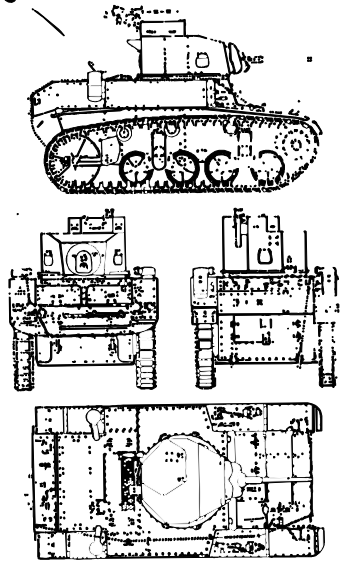


Lt. Gov. Margaret Farrow, Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney and other military officials cut a ribbon to open the new Volk Training Complex. Photo courtesy of Joe Oliva.

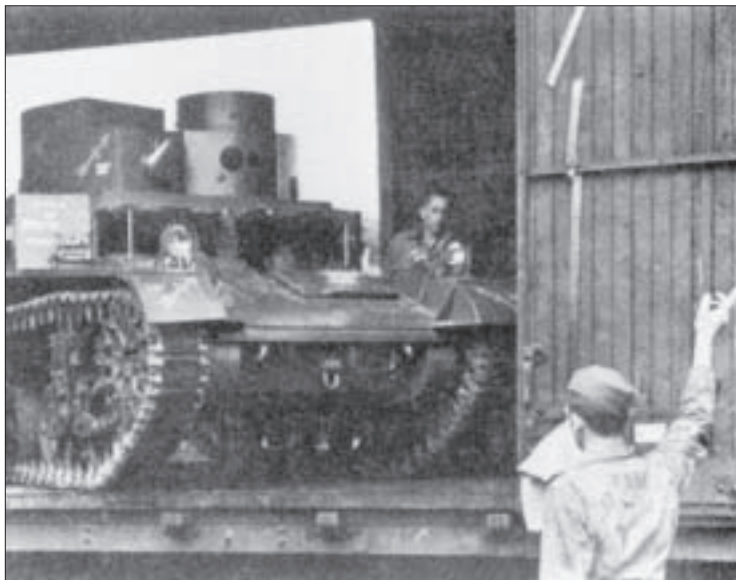


Haan

Light Tank M3



"In Louisiana, Company A turned in their M-2 tanks and drew M-3s. The M-3 evolved out of the M-2A2, and its driving characteristics were essentially the same. However, it... had one turret mounted with a 37 mm cannon and a machine gun. So that the cannon could function in the tight confines of a tank turret, its recoil was stiffened... which meant the whole tank rocked when the gun was fired." Diagram courtesy Tom Doherty.



Sgt. John Bushaw, who was to die in Japanese captivity, supervises the loading of an M-2A2 being sent back to the Rock Island Arsenal for overhaul. Photo courtesy Tom Doherty.

THE WAY WE WERE

Janesville tankers rumble towards E

By Tom Doherty
At Ease Historian

In 1918, Maj. Gen. William Haan led the 32nd Infantry Division (Wisconsin/Michigan National Guard) into battle on the Western Front. But in 1907, he was a major struggling to complete the Army's after-action report on the San Francisco earthquake and to wrap up the duty for which he had been sent west in the first place — an evaluation of coastal defenses.

That evaluation forecast World War II events that would have a drastic impact on a Wisconsin National Guard unit.

In letters to Gen. W.W. Wotherspoon of the General Staff in Washington, Haan expressed alarm about the potential threat to installations posed by communities of Japanese up and down the coast. However, Wotherspoon was distressed by an even more complicated problem, "an intraservice dispute" over plans to develop a base in the Philippines.

"On this question the Army and Navy have split wide open, and we will have to fight it out," he wrote to Haan. "The more I consider this question of naval bases in the Pacific, the more evident it is to me that it would be the worst kind of policy to build up a great naval base with dry docks, shops, etc., way out in the Philippines where we are almost sure to lose it in the beginning of a war."

These comments are woven among anguished reflections upon the Army-Navy game and gracious requests to be remembered to the other man's wife. Army had lost the game that year, and it also lost its fight with the Navy over bases in the Philippines. But it never lost a realistic sense of the difficulties its forces there would face if cut off from resupply and reinforcement, as they were bound to be if the Japanese struck without warning. Any army 7,000 miles from home would quickly wither and die.

The plan for the defense of the Philippines that evolved through the years embodied a "citadel type defense," as Gen. Douglas MacArthur

called it — a fatalistic holdout until a great naval effort could be mounted from the mainland to break through with fresh forces.

These plans envisioned a defense only of Luzon, the main island, with forces falling back as invaders poured ashore at widely scattered beachheads. Ultimately, the defend-



Tom Doherty

ers would retreat into the jungles of the Bataan peninsula, which was to be converted into a bastion capable of holding out for six months. All of which eventually happened pretty much according to script — with two exceptions. As U.S. forces retreated into Bataan early in 1942, supplies began to give out almost immediately, especially food. After three months of fierce resistance they could hold out no longer.

As for relief from home, the United States was still ill-prepared to fight anywhere, yet found itself at war on two fronts. Many of its best ships had been sent to the bottom at Pearl Harbor. For the starving, exhausted American and Filipino soldiers on Bataan there would be no mighty fleet to come steaming to their rescue.

Limited training

Throughout the 1920s and 30s in Janesville, however, young men lured to the drill floor by the promise of actually sitting at the controls of a battle tank and bringing the beast to life could not have cared less about the War Department's plans for the Philippine islands.

The 32nd Tank Company was a natural for Janesville. There were two other National Guard outfits in town, a band and a quartermaster company, but Tank Company reflected the community's new industrial base.

Old Janesville — before 1920 — had been shady streets, commerce, and great gingerbread mansions overlooking the Rock River. Early Janesville with its tavern, lumber mill, stagecoaches and riverboats had been a trading center in the midst of rich, black farmland.

Modern Janesville was row houses and factory whistles and blue collar workers from across the nation. In 1920, the year Tank Company was organized, General Motors had moved in with a Fisher Body plant and a Chevrolet plant.

Until 1934, Tank Company had eight American-made Renault tanks, of Great War vintage, and a revolving population of between 60 and 70 men vying for driving experience. Inevitably, the humdrum of close order drill, military courtesy, and lectures on hygiene and the care of clothing and equipment took up more of a young soldier's Monday night drills than actual hands-on experience with a 37 mm cannon, a machine gun, or the control levers of a tank.

Tanks were driven only about three months of the year and through the 1920s spent much of each year in storage at the Rock County fairgrounds.

The job of an infantry division's tank company in 1931 was to "accompany infantry," adding firepower and close support, and to lead massed assaults, crushing defenses and rushing to enemy artillery.

It was the old Great War concept — a handful of tanks moving forward with attacking infantry units.

New tanks

Newer tanks introduced in the late 1930s were not armed with cannons with which to kill other tanks but with machine guns to rout enemy machine gunners and artillerymen.

A writer described these tactics being practiced by the Janesville tankers during Annual Training at Camp Williams in 1927. The old Renault was still equipped with a cannon which, he wrote, "is the favorite piece on the range. It is this piece that silences 'pill-boxes' and wipes out salients as the tank platoon moves out over the top, some 50 paces in advance of the first infantry wave, while the other three tanks of the five concentrate upon visible personnel with machine guns."

In unit photographs from annual training, tank troops grin proudly under the brims of old-style cavalry hats while wives and girlfriends in stylish flapper outfits sit with legs crossed, high on the decks of the prehistoric-looking Renault "Flivvers." The girls look fresh from the company's 1926 Charleston contest.

If experience in a tank was hard to come by, good times were not. In Tank Company, two social clubs had evolved. One — the semi-official Idle Hours Club — took the high road, sponsoring recruitment drives, holiday banquets, dances, and other events that looked good on the society page. The other was a less widely known group called the Scorpion Club. It took a decidedly low road. According to Forrest Knox, a member of Tank Company, it was an after-hours drinking group, and the only requirement for membership was that a man hold his liquor without turning mean.

By the late 1930s there was an additional attraction — the Army's new light tank, the M-2A2, which had started to come off the production line at the Rock Island Arsenal in 1935. The M-2A2 was a light, quick, thin-skinned model of the type desired by the infantry. Called the "Mae West" because of its twin turrets, it could make 35 mph on the open road. It mounted four machine guns, .33-caliber and .50-caliber. It also was sturdy enough to keep going as long as fuel trucks could keep up with it. Two of the new tanks arrived at Janesville in February 1937.

The old Renaults had been in "cold storage" for three years. During that time Tank Company had been without any tanks at all; and so to be blessed with this newest of the new, the top of the line, was a heady experience for newcomers and old-timers alike. A photographer from the Janesville Gazette caught the first of the new tanks parked at curbside before a backdrop of Cape Cod bungalows and lawns covered with last fall's leaves. Members of Tank Company dressed in Saturday morning civvies are climbing all over this dark war machine, checking it out as they would a neighbor's new Packard.

Plugging the gap

By the summer of 1940, with Europe lost to the Germans and England bracing for invasion, mobilization of the National Guard was just a matter of time. Everyone understood that. What was less clear to the tankers was just how they would be employed. Their strength had been increased and now stood at 112 enlisted men. Some of these newcomers were still students in Janesville High School. At least two were barely into their junior year. On Nov. 25, the tankers were sworn into the Army. No longer the 32nd Tank Company, they had become Company A, 192nd Tank Battalion.

Fort Knox, Ky., where the tank soldiers were welcomed by an Army band,

WE WERE

e towards Bataan destiny

had spent two decades in the doldrums — but now it was coming back to life in honor of the new citizen Army of 1940. From the widespread mud rose framework skeletons of new barracks and classroom buildings that were going up literally overnight. The construction was to accommodate a great new armored force, of the type armor advocates had been seeking almost since the end of the last war.

Germany's blitzkrieg successes over the past year had demonstrated how right these visionaries were, and how far this nation had to go before it could hope to defeat the German armor. New tanks by the tens of thousands, highly trained soldiers by the hundreds of thousands — all this would take years.

Meanwhile, the press of events around the world created the need for an interim armor force able to hold the line until our new citizen Army was ready to go on the offensive. That interim armor force would be composed of National Guard tank companies gathered in new general headquarters battalions.

It was a classic role for the National Guard: preparing to rush into the gap, incompletely trained and inadequately equipped, but ready to buy time for the great new army that would follow along in years to come.

In two adjacent, unpainted barracks, the Janesville men got accustomed to life stripped down to basics.

Having reported for duty more fully manned and better equipped than the other companies of the 192nd Battalion, they were disproportionately levied for transfers into the battalion's headquarters company, which was just being organized.

Thirty-five Janesville men were transferred into Headquarters Company. The 192nd also included companies from Maywood, Ill.; Port Clinton, Ohio; and Harrodsburg, Ky.

"Old junk tanks"

The battalion was assigned a total of 24 M-2A2s. However, half were in such rough shape they had to be sent back to the Rock Island Arsenal for reconditioning.

Forrest Knox believed that the 1st Armored Division handed over only "old junk tanks. Our maintenance section had an absolute beast of a time keeping these things running."

In fact, they were probably the

best available. At the time the entire Army had only slightly more than 400 tanks.

At Fort Knox, there were road marches and some tactical problems over terrain that had not yet been converted to a simulated combat zone — with opposing forces, battlefield noise, firing courses, and so on.

A year or so later, such training would be standard for tank soldiers; but in early 1941, the troops of the 192nd had all they could do to get their tanks moving and into the field.

Here, in Knox's words, is how to drive the M-2A2: "These things had an old sliding transmission, like on a tractor. As you went up in gears you picked up speed. To shift you had to overwind it, like up to 2400 rpms. There was a tachometer, but basically you learned to do it by sound. Once you got the hang of it, synchronizing the speed, you could just flip the stick, and there was nothing to it. There was a helluva roar from the aircraft engine. It was a seven cylinder Continental radial. There was a great big propeller in front of the engine that sucked air through the combat compartment. We did everything with a simplified hand signal or touch system. There was no speech whatsoever when you drove one of those things.

"In front of you was a peep slot. Your crash helmet had a rubber cushion on it. You'd shove that tight up against the steel, and that anchored your head. You could see straight ahead, but you couldn't see either track."

"There were no brakes. You had to downshift in order to brake. There were steering clutches. Any time you started to run you had to pour the coal on because the slack in the track would automatically wind up at the trailing idler if you let off on the gas. If you poured the power on, the front drive sprockets would pull all the slack right up front. So if you kept the power on anytime you was turning you was fine. You kept your track snug. But if you jerked your foot off the gas all the slack popped to the back and off she plopped."

Louisiana maneuvers

In August, the 192nd gathered with other forces in Louisiana to embark upon the most ambitious peacetime maneuvers ever, providing the



"Two of the new tanks arrived at Janesville in February 1937. . . . A photographer from the Janesville Gazette caught the first of the new tanks parked at curbside before a backdrop of Cape Cod bungalows and lawns covered with last fall's leaves. Members of Tank Company dressed in Saturday morning civvies are climbing all over this dark war machine, checking it out as they would a neighbor's new Packard." Photo courtesy Tom Doherty.

tankers and many thousand others with their most extensive exposure to life in the field and on the run, including a month-long stretch involving movement among 35 different locations.

Such moves typically took place at night to avoid detection by enemy warplanes. This proved to be good practice for what was to come.

Moving out on short notice without sleep or a sense of the big picture became routine. In the middle of God-knows-where, tents went up and came down, latrines were dug and filled, a little green portable headquarters was laid out, then folded away again.

The usual three squares, warm showers and predictable routine became distant memories — replaced by a tribal community of tanks and half-tracks in a world of scrub pines, bugs and red dust everywhere, of fuel trucks lumbering to keep up, and always of an anticipation of trouble ahead. Home was the droning of engines and a grubby stink of sweat, gas, and sun-baked steel.

In early October, they found themselves at Fort Polk, an infantry training camp in Louisiana, where they turned in their M-2s and drew over twice as many of the newer

model M-3s (54 altogether, plus half-tracks and other vehicles).

The M-3 evolved out of the M-2A2, and its driving characteristics were essentially the same. However, it was very different in one respect. Instead of two turrets each mounting a machine gun, the M-3 had one turret mounted with a 37 mm cannon and a machine gun. So that the cannon could function in the tight confines of a tank turret, its recoil was stiffened: The normal 20-inch blowback was reduced to eight, which meant the whole tank rocked when the gun was fired. The M-3 also carried a total of five .30-caliber machine guns, including one on the turret for anti-aircraft fire.

"Sealed orders"

The Janesville Gazette had closely followed the fortunes of its hometown tankers. But with a blanket of secrecy settling over their movements, its stories turned portentous. It spoke of "the thrill of 'sealed orders'" — although the 192nd's destination was an open secret among members of the battalion.

From soldier husbands or sons came vaguely worded "good-bye" telegrams, and on Oct. 27, the battalion's 588 men went through a

final roll call on a San Francisco dock, then hauled their gear aboard the troop transport Hugh L. Scott. Meanwhile, in the Gazette, a Honolulu-based correspondent described the coming and going of "black-hulled Army transports" and "continuous flights of long range Navy bombers" and "thousands of civilian workers . . . rushing at top speed to complete construction of bases on our Pacific islands." The convoy zigzagged to Honolulu, then to Guam and finally to Manila, arriving Nov. 20, Thanksgiving Day.

The mystery and urgency that surrounded the dispatch of the 192nd and other forces sprang from profound change of heart within the War Department toward the defense of the Philippines.

With the appointment of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to supreme command of the new U.S. Army Forces Far East Command (USAFEF) in July 1941, hope began to replace fatalism. A charismatic leader with an aggressive plan; new weapons like the B-17 and the submarine, with the potential to destroy an invasion force

See 'Tanks' next page



Members of the Janesville Tank Company in front of their armory, 1938. Photo courtesy Tom Doherty.

Janesville tanks

Continued from page 13

before it reached the beaches; many such factors came together to generate a sense of new possibilities. With reinforcement, perhaps the Philippines could be held.

The cat jumps

The new arrivals set up housekeeping in pyramidal tents at Fort Stotsenburg, 65 miles north of Manila. Stotsenburg, in the words of Donald Schutt, seemed "exactly what Hollywood might conjure up as a typical small tropical Army post. Located next door to Clark Field and surrounded by palm trees and bamboo, the post contained the characteristic parade grounds, hospital, post exchange, and a few permanent one-story barracks constructed of bamboo with grass roofs."

In early December, the 192nd's tanks were dispersed around Clark Field and Fort Stotsenburg to guard against air-

borne invasion.

While working on their tanks, or loading machine gun belts, or watching the sky, soldiers traded rumors — that Marines in China had seen Japanese soldiers gathering to ship off for the Philippines; that Jap planes were making "dummy runs" on the Philippines; that a Japanese invasion convoy was circling in the China Sea. There were nightly black-outs, and according to one witness, "the night sky was lit by an 'Aurora Borealis' of searchlights."

Finally, in the early hours of Dec. 8 (Dec. 7 at Pearl Harbor), Gen. Jonathan Wainwright called his aide to announce, "The cat has jumped."

Throughout that Sunday morning as Manila radio repeated bulletins from Pearl Harbor, everyone at American installations on Luzon watched the sky. If the Japs had hit Pearl, could Clark Field be far behind?

By a freak of timing, the Japanese bomb-

ers arrived as the field was crowded with B-17s lined up as if for destruction and by pursuit planes just ready for take-off.

In half an hour several waves of bombers followed by low-flying Zeroes succeeded in destroying or damaging over half the Army's far eastern fleet of B-17s — the largest concentration of heavy bombers in the U.S. arsenal. Also lost were many of the Army's P-40s and other aircraft.

Planes, hangars, warehouses, even the surrounding fields were ablaze.

Gazing at planes

At about 12:20, the tank soldiers were scattered in and around their tanks, eating lunch and gazing with dreamy admiration at aircraft approaching in neat V formations.

Seconds later, they were blazing away, eagerly but uselessly, as exploding bombs marched over runways, planes, mess halls and fields. Machine gunners at least had a

chance against the Zeroes that came in low after the bombers were gone, and a tanker from Company B was credited with shooting one down.

It was small consolation given the price paid in dead and wounded, destroyed planes, and damage to the U.S. strategic position in the Philippines in just half an hour.

Not until the main invasion force was spotted off the shore of Lingayen Gulf two weeks later were most of the tanks alerted for action. By then, the Japanese soldiers had been transformed in Wainwright's mind into an altogether different creature: "The rat was in the house," he wrote.

Just after midnight on Dec. 22, orders came down sending three companies of the 192nd racing north to meet the Japanese landing.

Next Issue: Engaging the Japanese at Bataan.

120th learns new gun on its own



Experienced gunners of 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, demonstrate proper fire preparations on an M-119 towed howitzer during Annual Training at Fort McCoy in June. Photos by Adam Bradley.



LEFT: Cpl. Bryan Hughes, left, section chief in Battery A, teaches procedures for the M-119 towed howitzer to members of 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, during Annual Training in June at Fort McCoy. The unit was converting to the M-119 from the M-109 self-propelled howitzer in order to be more relevant to the needs of the 21st-century Army.

By Lisa Munson
At Ease Staff

A long-planned equipment conversion presented an unexpected challenge to 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, at this year's Annual Training, and the howitzer unit rose to the occasion by providing its own internal training team.

The gunners of the 120th turned in their M-109 self-propelled howitzers last year and received the first six of 18 M-119 towed howitzers that will replace them. Normally, the Army would send in a new equipment training team to brief the battalion's soldiers on the weapon's proper operation and safety procedures. For the 120th, however, this would not be the case.

Enter Cpl. Bryan Hughes, a section leader in Battery A. Having spent two-and-a-half years on active duty with the 320th Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Division, at Fort Campbell, Ky., Hughes knows the M-119 inside-out. He even knows how to sling-load it for helicopter transport.

"We've known about the weapons system change for over a year, but we just got our hands on the six weapons about two weeks before Annual Training," said Sgt. 1st Class Duane Beyer, battalion master gunner. "Corporal Hughes has been invaluable in teaching the training team proper weapons procedures. In fact, there is an inside joke going

around the battalion about which battery gets him."

The 120th's training team included 10 people, only six of whom had prior experience with the new weapon. The team's mission was to teach the entire battalion maintenance, parts, ammunition, advance parties, gun guides, march and laying procedures, and occupying the site. Only after that training did the soldiers get their chance to fire live rounds.

The unit was converted from M-109s to M-119s to make it more agile and relevant to the Army's needs in this era of transformation. The new weapon requires fewer crew members — a plus when looking at the demographics of Clintonville, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield, and past strength levels in those cities.

"For the first time," Beyer said, "most of our batteries are now close to 100 percent strength. Thus, we're more likely to be deployed."

"I think most troops will be excited with the change," said Hughes. "We're going to be a lot more mobile, be able to provide close infantry support and definitely be more involved. After the re-learning of their weapons, I believe they will really like it."

The 120th received the six howitzers from the New York National Guard's 27th Brigade, which is disbanding. The unit expects to receive 12 more when the 27th is totally disbanded.



Sgts. 1st Class Mark Heidemann, center right, and Leonard Hurst, left, instruct Staff Sgt. Rodney Kerkiseck and Spc. Daniel Gurgel in proper bore sighting procedures FOR THE 120th, new M-119 towed howitzer.

DART assesses downed Huey in hot zone

*Story and photos
by Brian Jopek
At Ease Staff*

Recovering a piece of military hardware like a UH-1 helicopter from enemy territory can be a dangerous job, so rehearsing that task was a priority for the 832nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) at annual training in June.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Steve Rogers, Germantown, supervised the downed aircraft recovery training at Volk Field. "The concept of the training was 'crawl, walk, run' because we don't do this type of training very often," he said.

According to the exercise scenario, a Huey had been downed by enemy small arms fire, and its crew had been rescued with no casualties. However, with sensitive radios and avionics gear aboard the aircraft, it had to be retrieved from hostile territory or destroyed before it fell into enemy hands.

That's where the Downed Aircraft Recovery Team (DART) came in. The team is made up of four people from the 832nd's maintenance section, including a technical inspector, two mechanics and a maintenance test pilot. Their mission was to get the aircraft back in flying condition and out of hostile territory using basic maintenance procedures. The Huey would then be flown back to a maintenance collection point where more permanent repairs could be performed, or it would be destroyed.

Capt. Matt Strub, Sparta, the 832nd's flight operations officer, said the team's time on the ground depends on enemy activity. "The team will make the call as to whether or not to destroy the aircraft."

A four-person reaction team, led by Sgt. Eric Cadwell of Sheboygan, goes in

ahead of the DART to secure the Huey and establish a defensive perimeter.

Dropped by another Huey in a field approximately 150 yards from the downed aircraft, Cadwell's team fanned out and slowly approached. Positioning his people at the nose, tail and left side of the aircraft, Cadwell did an initial check of the aircraft for booby traps. He then radioed that the aircraft was secure and took up a position on the perimeter to the aircraft's right.

The Huey that had dropped off Cadwell and his team then returned with the DART and their gear.

"In a combat situation," said Rogers, "the downed aircraft checklist (information obtained from the pilot and crew) helps us prepare ahead of time. That way we minimize time in the combat zone."

For this exercise, the simulated battle damage included a bullet hole in the main rotor blade and loss of transmission oil pressure. While the DART went through the steps of troubleshooting the aircraft, Rogers watched them, observing how they diagnosed the problems and the steps the team would take to make appropriate repairs. His job was to make sure the DART leader, Staff Sgt. Ted Corsi, Green Bay, and his crew understood what needed to be done.

"My job is to assess the damage to the aircraft," said Corsi. "Once the mechanics make the repairs, I sign off on them and take care of paperwork."

In this exercise, the simulated battle damage to the Huey was repaired and the aircraft was successfully flown out of the area. The second Huey returned, and under the watchful eyes of Cadwell's reaction team, the DART climbed aboard. Cadwell's team then climbed on and the Huey flew out of the hostile zone, mission completed.



After securing the helicopter and establishing a perimeter around it, reaction team leader Sgt. Eric Cadwell radioes that all is clear.



At the downed aircraft, the recovery team prepares to go into action.



Sgt. Tim Quinn, Crystal Lake, Ill., opens a cover on the Huey so he can look for a transmission oil leak.



Pvt. Josh Ingerwen, Milwaukee, examines damage to a main rotor blade.

32nd Engineers well-grounded at air show



Spc. Sadie Catania, a combat engineer with the 32nd Engineer Company, shows Avery Valentine, 6, how to prepare for combat with the application of camouflage facepaint, during the June 16 La Crosse Air Fest. Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner.



Capt. Paul Liethen, 32nd Engineering Company commander, and his two sons Jessie, left, and Andrew, look at one of the aircraft on display at the LaCrosse Air Fest. The airshow was an opportunity for engineers and their families to get together during the two-week annual training exercise held at Fort McCoy June 8-22. Photo by Jim Wagner.

By Fred Minnick
At Ease Staff

For Father's Day, 32nd Engineer Company commander Capt. Paul Liethen received a satchel of his favorite beef jerky, a king-sized Snicker's bar, and an 83-degree day with aesthetic white clouds and mild winds.

On this perfect day his two sons, Jessie and Andrew, were by his side after watching Wisconsin Army National Guard engineers perform an assault demonstration at the Fifth Annual Airfest in LaCrosse.

"It's really cool to see what Dad does when he goes to drill," noted 10-year-old Jessie. "I always thought he just built bridges."

During normal training for the unit's combat mission, Liethen and his soldiers would build bridges, roads and berms to support the infantry. But on this day, they put on a show for some 5,000 spectators, to kick off the day's events at the air show.

Simulating an enemy assault, 20 soldiers stowed away in three humvees and drove toward the enemy. Upon coming across a strip of concertina wire, the engineers used bangalore torpedoes to breach the obstacle. Audience members were in awe as Liethen's soldiers conducted flawless 3-5 second rushes and skillfully suppressed rapid fire from the opposing forces, which were actually fellow soldiers from their unit.

"It was a great opportunity to show our local residents the capabilities our unit has," said Liethen, whose army is just minutes from the LaCrosse Airport in Onalaska.

The ground exercise was also a perfect segue to an acrobatic show of cloud-cutting airplanes and fighter jets.

The flight show began with low, wild and seemingly out-of-control moves from double biplanes. The "oohs and ahs" echoed and fingers pointed to the sky as each pilot "nearly crashed" several times. The U.S. Air Force's presence was felt with the F-15 Eagle's amazing acceleration and crafty ma-

neuverability. But perhaps the most anticipated flight was that of the supersonic CF-18 flown by Canadian Forces, which can reach speeds of Mach 1.8.

"This show, year in and year out, has a very well-rounded group of pilots and planes," said Pat Smith, public relations coordinator of the event.

It also has a well-rounded representation of the U.S. Armed Forces, with recruiting tents from the major branches dispersed among the displayed planes and concession stands. The largest showing this year represented the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

With his entire company on annual training at nearby Fort McCoy during the three-day air show, Liethen had the luxury of rotating soldiers through the recruiting tent.

"Every day I had different soldiers conducting the ground assault or watching the recruiting booth, while the rest of the company was at the armory," he said. "They were given four-hour breaks to spend with their family at the air show, so this mission was an MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) day as well."

Liethen's soldiers answered the crowd's questions about their displays of M-249 SAWs (Squad Automatic Weapons), .50-caliber machine guns, M-60 machine guns, SEE (Small Emplacement Excavating) trucks, 5-ton dump trucks and bulldozers.

"Most of the people asking questions were little kids," said Spec. Nate Christianson. "This is a great opportunity for us, because kids are beginning to respect and look up to soldiers a lot more with everything going on in the world."

One example of this is the Liethen boys. Both Andrew and Jessie want to continue their family's military legacy, but until they're old enough to swear in they'll live their military heritage through their father.

"The best thing about having your dad in the Army is telling all your friends — they have a lot more respect for you," said Andrew, age 12.

1st Air Force boss lauds 115th response

By Staff Sgt. Michael Collier
115 FW Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Larry K. Arnold, commander of 1st Air Force and the Continental United States North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Region, paid a visit to the 115th Fighter Wing on June 5-6, to meet with wing leaders and discuss the wing's support of Operation Noble Eagle, the homeland defense operation launched after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Arnold toured the 115th's Truax Field base and attended a briefing by Brig. Gen. Fred Sloan, the wing's commander. Sloan briefed Arnold on the past and future role of the 115th in homeland defense and the unit's plans for meeting its recurring overseas taskings under the Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept.

"I feel very comfortable with the presence of the 115th Fighter Wing in protecting America's airspace," Arnold said. "In particular, I am impressed with the rapid response of the 115th Fighter Wing following the tragedy of 11 Septem-

ber 01. Your supportive actions as a unit are truly outstanding — you were willing and ready to serve when your country called."

Arnold, who has commanded 1st Air Force since December 1997, is responsible for the organization, equipment and operation of air defense forces. 1st Air Force, headquartered at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., is one of four numbered air forces assigned to Air Combat Command and has responsibility for continental air defense. It is the first numbered air force to consist primarily of citizen airmen. A combined 1st Air Force command post and Continental United States Regions Air Operations Center control the NORAD air sovereignty mission for homeland defense.

"I always knew it was possible," Arnold said, "but it was amazing to see it really happen. The 115th Fighter Wing and other Air National Guard units like yourself are making a significant contribution. I am awed by the dedication and professionalism of our men and women."



Brig. Gen. Fred Sloan, left, presents a unit coin to Maj. Gen. Larry Arnold. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Gorman, 115th Fighter Wing.

Artillery soldiers have a barn raising

By Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Donovan
1st Battalion, 120th
Field Artillery

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, helped a rural community in central Wisconsin build a new playground for their children July 18-20.

The farm-themed playground features simulated barns, silos, hayloft and John Deere tractor, among other attractions. It was constructed in Stratford, a village of 1,500 north of Marshfield, by local citizens and Guard members. Learning Structures, a company from New Hampshire that specializes in community-built playgrounds, designed the park and supervised its construction.

Fourteen Guard soldiers, some from each of the battalion's four batteries, worked side by side with community members for two-and-

a-half days to complete the project. The Guard members were on unpaid volunteer status. Some Guard members drove more than three hours from their homes to take part.

The farm theme of the park celebrates Stratford's farming heritage. The new playground replaces old metal swings and slides that were in need of repair and had given rise to safety concerns. It took only one year for the community to raise the funds necessary to build the project. Donors of funds to build the park have their names engraved on a picket fence which surrounds the park. Three structures within the park were donated by families in memory of loved ones.

"It's doubtful our community playground build would have had the same success if it hadn't been for the dedication of the National

Guard," said Elaine Vanderhoof, playground chairperson. "We were proud to work alongside these men and gained a further respect for them. They helped in every way possible from the very beginning to the very end with hard working, cooperative spirit. The National Guard has left an extremely positive impression on our town."

Vanderhoof led the community project after a similar playground build was completed in nearby Marshfield. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery also helped build that playground.

"I helped out on the playground in Marshfield," said Staff Sgt. Don Hederer of Battery A. "When Staff Sergeant (Chris) Donovan asked if I'd help with this one I didn't hesitate. It's rewarding to bring your children to a playground and tell them daddy helped build it."



Members of 1st Battalion, 120th FA begin to hoist one of the silos, part of the farm theme playground in Stratford, Wis. Guardmembers volunteered their time to help with the project.

2-127th Infantry sets a trap during AT

Story and photos by
Spc. Scott Tyner
211th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve

Concealed troops, their helmets hung with greenery, watched as the "enemy" approached in a humvee, bouncing around like stones in a coffee can while trying to watch the surrounding tree line. Before the opposing force (OPFOR) soldiers could round the corner, a hail of gunfire ripped through the air, forcing them to stop their vehicle, jump out and defend themselves.

This was just one exercise per-

formed by soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade (Light), who practiced light infantry ambush tactics during their Annual Training.

Because the battalion had previously been a mechanized infantry unit, the overall mission was to train soldiers in light infantry tactics, said Capt. Jackie Guthrie, 32nd Brigade public affairs officer.

"This is the first annual training for many guys doing light infantry missions" since the brigade began its transformation from a mechanized infantry in October 2001, said 2nd Lt. Brion Aderman, the battalion's

tactical intelligence officer.

The change from mechanized to light infantry not only meant a change in tactics, it also meant a change in equipment.

The conversion "means we lost our armor battalion," said 1st Sgt. David Christianson, Company C. "We also lost a bunch of other different assets" in the changeover, and soldiers had to go through the infantry military occupational school, he added.

Despite the unit's having to make major adjustments, Aderman said he has been very impressed and pleased with progress since the change.



A member of 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, stands over a captured member of the opposing force.



127th Infantry troops move in to check bodies for weapons and intelligence after an ambush tactics drill during Annual Training at Fort McCoy in June 2002.

New Urban Assault Complex provides good training

By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
32nd Infantry Brigade
Public Affairs Officer

(Sgt. Robert R. Ramon of the 211th Public Affairs Detachment, United States Army Reserve, contributed to this article.)

After running into the building, the soldiers quickly engaged targets and cleared each room. They were training at Fort McCoy's new Urban Assault Complex (UAC), which officially opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 12.

"It's a good facility," said Staff Sgt. Todd Tilken after completing one of the stations. Tilken is an infantry squad leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 127th Infantry. "It gives us an opportunity to clear buildings in the right setting," he said.

The facility will provide good training opportunities for engineer, military police and infantry soldiers, according to Terry Hoff, a range specialist at Fort McCoy.

The UAC is an advanced Army range that offers individual, team, squad and platoon level training opportunities on urban assault tactics. It features pop-up targets as well as targets in buildings. The complex

includes several buildings and a simulated underground urban sewer system, Hoff said.

Almost as impressive as the course itself is the time in which the complex was built.

"Sixteen months!" exclaimed Col. Michael R. Staszak, Fort McCoy's installation commander. "Sixteen months from an idea to standing here today—unparalleled in the Army. In the military construction world it's usually about five years from start to finish, and it usually takes longer and it costs more money. This one cost less money and it got done faster. That's pretty impressive! This is a total team effort."

Joining Staszak in cutting the ceremonial ribbon were Maj. Gen. James Blaney, the adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. William C. Kirkland, commander of the Army Reserve's 88th Regional Support Group.

"We are thrilled to be able to be putting this out here today," said Staszak. "This is a great facility!"

The ceremony took place at the foot of the UAC's offense/defense building as life-like "enemy" mannequins watched from the windows above. Approximately 100 commanders and staff members of the 32nd Brigade were also on hand for the ceremony.



Evaluators observe Spc. Kirby Frank as he emerges from one of the tunnels that make up the new Urban Assault Complex. Frank is an infantryman in Company C, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry. Wisconsin Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Graff.

New simulator puts BANG! in small arms training

*Story and Photo by
Master Sgt. Larry Rush
115th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs*

Air Guard weapons training qualification comes at specific intervals, and airmen are required to maintain qualification and proficiency with the weapon assigned. The reason for the training is that you must know how to handle firearms safely and effectively in the event of war or civil disturbance.

In recent years, many small arms ranges and National Guard facilities have been closed due to funding and, in some cases, environmental concerns. Just completing training has become a problem.

"People need to practice their marksmanship to maintain skills and demonstrate proficiency. Coming to the range every three years leaves some individuals without required skills," said Tech. Sgt. Daniel Knettle, 115th Security Forces Squadron combat arms training manager.

Enter the Firearms Training System (FATS), a computer-driven laser-tracking marksmanship simulation classroom that helps people

reduce shooting problems more efficiently than training on a live-fire range. Housed in Building 503 at Truax Field, the FATS classroom is ideally located for the training use of the squadron and wing.

This writer greatly benefited from the opportunity to use the classroom. The electronic system identified my skill deficiencies and gave me immediate feedback, with an expert instructor's interpretation, on my performance. FATS is an excellent training device.

FATS can provide instruction ranging from individual marksmanship to collective training under battlefield conditions. The simulated M-16 rifle and M-9 pistol provided in the FATS classroom are modeled after the actual weapons in form, fit, function and physical characteristics — including the BANG! Tech. Sgts. Chris Halverson and Dave Busse, marksmanship instructors, get valuable diagnostic information from the system and pass it along to the trainee as individual instruction.

FATS is not recognized by the Air Force as meeting fire qualifications for overseas deployment. All personnel deploying to a critical



Lane training enables instructors to provide simulated, interactive, individual basic and advanced marksmanship training, with immediate results, feedback and performance analysis for the trainee. Pictured above from front to back, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Knettle, Tech. Sgt. Dave Busse, Master Sgt. Kert Hanson and Master Sgt. Larry Rush.

threat area for contingency deployment must be live-fire qualified on weapons they will be armed with.

As we all know from our experience on the live-fire range, reme-

dial firearms training is allowed. Its purpose is to correct individual shooting errors. Remedial training is intended to focus on specific problems and affords the trainee an

opportunity to improve.

"Most students meet standards when given individual attention," said Knettle.

One by one, Rockwells feel Guard's pull

*Story and photos by
Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
32nd Brigade Public Affairs Officer*

They didn't come for a family reunion, but three generations of Rockwells congregated at Fort McCoy in June to swap military stories, share a meal and just enjoy some family time.

Retired Sgt. 1st Class W. Fred Rockwell; his son, Sgt. 1st Class Pete Rockwell; and his grandson, Pfc. Dan Rockwell, are all current or former members of Wisconsin's "Red Arrow" unit, currently designated as the 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade (Light). They have approximately 52 years of combined ser-

vice to the country. Not present at the gathering was former Spc. Bill Rockwell, another son of Fred, who also spent 10 years with the brigade.

Fred joined the military in the mid-1940s and retired in 1985. After a brief active duty tour, Fred felt compelled to join the Guard — "just for the action and excitement," he said.

"I did 35 years, 1 month and 11 days," including one active duty tour during the Berlin Crisis of 1961-1962, Fred said. "I was called to State Active Duty five times," he added. As a member of the Eau Claire-based 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, Fred helped Wisconsin residents recover from a tornado and a flood, and he helped control civil disturbances

three different times in the 1970s.

Fred hung up his uniform in 1985, but he still wears the 32nd Brigade insignia — the famous Red Arrow — as a lifetime member and active participant in the 32nd Old Timers organization.

Despite Fred's long and challenging military career, the only family member he personally persuaded to join the Guard was his son Bill.

"Dad tried to get me to join during Vietnam," Pete said, "but I didn't have an interest."

Despite his original reluctance to join, Pete is now a citizen soldier and works full-time for the Guard. He is currently a personnel sergeant with 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry, in Madison.

"When I joined I was 33 and didn't have a retirement plan," he said. The Guard offered that benefit, but Pete soon learned that it offered a lot more. "At some point my view changed; I like the Guard," Pete said, noting that now he has only seven years until he is eligible for retirement.

His biggest challenge is to keep up with the younger soldiers. "I've always been on the older side of the power curve," he explained.

Although Pete, like his father, was not initially successful in recruiting his son to

join the Guard, the benefits of being in the Guard eventually attracted young Dan Rockwell.

"No way was I ever going to join the Army," Dan said. That stance changed when he learned how much college would cost. Dan plans to attend Winona State University in Minnesota to pursue a marketing and business management degree. His drill pay, GI Bill and the Student Loan Repayment Program will help him with college expenses.

This unit armorer, like his father a member of 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry, has no immediate goals for military advancement but said he may look into the Reserve Officer Training Corps program when he gets to Winona State.

"You would be a good ROTC cadet," a proud grandfather chimed in.

While grandpa Fred admits he had little influence on his son and grandson in joining the Guard, that doesn't stop him from mentoring them.

"Stick with it," he said. "Get as much education as you can, and do what your superiors tell you. And like the old Red Arrow flag says: Rise up that ladder." Some day Pete and Dan may also be active Old Timer members and continue to wear the Red Arrow proudly.



Pfc. Dan Rockwell, left, his father, Sgt. 1st Class Pete Rockwell, and grandfather, retired Sgt. 1st Class W. Fred Rockwell, in civilian clothes, line up for chow at Annual Training.



The three Rockwells have breakfast together at Fort McCoy.

Old Timers bring seasoned outlook to training



Darryl Rindall is all smiles as he deplanes from a Blackhawk helicopter that had just given him and 16 other 32nd Division Old Timers a flight over Fort McCoy June 17. Behind him is crew chief Sgt. Dustin Orth, of the 147th Command Aviation Battalion, Wisconsin Army National Guard.



Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, explains the radio on his load-bearing vest to Old Timers Don White, left, of Madison, and Chuck Michaels of Fountain City.



Paul Brush, an Old Timer from Oshkosh, watches the landscape go by during a Black Hawk flight June 17 at Fort McCoy.

Story and Photos by Tom Michele
At Ease Staff

Every year they return, most of them anyway, except those who have reported to duty with the Supreme Commander.

They did again this year: Almost 100 members of the 32nd Division Old Timers spent the week touring Fort McCoy and the surrounding area. For 17 who had never had an orientation flight on a Black Hawk helicopter, the 147th Command Aviation Battalion provided a 15-minute ride over the post and the range areas, doing hedgehopping maneuvers most of the route.

One highlight of the tour was the World War II Commemorative Museum. The Old Timers also viewed a TOW missile live-fire demonstration from the Range 29 control tower and an infantry squad assaulting a bunker occupied by opposing forces. Simulated artillery shells and blank ammunition fired from the soldiers' M-16 rifles greatly enhanced the latter demonstration.

But what sparked the feelings of most Old Timers was talking about the United States flag and its meaning. To them it means freedom and history.

As Desert Storm veteran Paul Brush, Oshkosh, said, "Cutting across the Saudi and Iraqi sands, with the U.S. flag flying from our vehicles, gave us a great feeling, a relief. We thank God we have the home that we do, and we don't want to lose it. The flag represents the unity of our country and our soldiers on foreign land. It is something for them to come home to, and to enjoy the freedoms we have."

"A lot of people haven't been in the military," he said, "so they don't know what is involved and don't care. Everything we have, they have, is thanks to the people in the military. I fly the flag on my front lawn 24 hours a day, with a light on it at night. After having been to foreign countries and seeing their flags, coming home and seeing ours is a super feeling."

As for the Old Timers, Brush said, "I enjoy the camaraderie of the members of the Old Timers, and of the soldiers we meet, and talk about old times and reflect on past experiences, and the chop-



Old Timers observe a simulated assault on an enemy bunker by Company C, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry. The demonstration was conducted at Fort McCoy's Infantry Battle Drill Course.

per ride. I've flown helicopters many times, never in combat. Visiting the museum is very enlightening, it is very patriotic — here to show past, present and future generations of the support the country gave. I hope it continues to encourage people to be more patriotic."

Brush served three years in the active Army, then 21 years in the Wisconsin National Guard. His first unit was Company C, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, in Oshkosh. He then went to the 1157th Transportation Company in the same city, retiring as a sergeant first class. He also had four brothers and one sister in the Badger Guard and a brother in the regular Army.

"There was a lot of love among us," Brush concluded. "We prayed to the Lord that things would go good and all of us would make it out. That happened."

Tom Skaug, also of Oshkosh and also a former member of the 1157th, said, "The U.S. flag is a symbol of pride and heritage.

Everybody should have that, it would be healthy. It's sad to see those people who don't have that feeling. The Flag belongs to the people of the United States. I see a lot of pride and honor and love for God and country in the flag. I believe in freedom of religion, the backbone of our country. That's why our country was founded."

Along with his Old Timers involvement, Skaug is also active with the Oshkosh Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, marching in the color guard in parades and "fighting for the benefits for those who served."

While standing in the middle of the McCoy Museum area, LeRoy Albright noted, "It brings back a lot of good memories. I was with the 32nd's tank battalion from 1957 to 1962. I was also with the group that was called to Fort Lewis, Washington, in 1961. Those were the lucky years; I never got out of the states. The Wisconsin guys introduced pizza and beer to the Washington people."



Former first sergeant George Loew talks with Capt. Jeff Schroeder, commander of Company D, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, at a firing range at Fort McCoy where the Old Timers observed the live fire of three TOW missiles.

New TAG

Continued from Page 1

fession in arms. The generals, colonels, officers, sergeants major, chiefs, soldiers and airmen who serve are simply the best and the brightest in uniform today."

Blaney served as adjutant general since his appointment to the post Aug. 8, 1997. At the time his five-year term ended, he had nearly 42 years of military service.

"The Wisconsin National Guard had an outstanding leader in Gen. Blaney and he has earned our deepest appreciation for his service to our state and nation over more than four decades," McCallum said. "As Governor, the safety and security of our people is the heaviest duty I have...and that's why I have felt so truly blessed by the outstanding services, and the friendship, of Maj. Gen. Jim Blaney."

"General Blaney, your troops and I salute you," McCallum said as he turned to render a salute to the outgoing adjutant general.

Prior to his appointment as

adjutant general, Blaney served as deputy adjutant general for Army. He has also served as commander of the Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade, 64th Troop Command commander, commandant of the Wisconsin Military Academy, anti-armor battalion commander, and in a variety of other command and staff positions since he received his commission as a National Guard officer in 1963.

Blaney began his military service when he enlisted into a reconnaissance squadron of the Wisconsin National Guard's 105th Cavalry, Sparta, in October, 1960. In 1961, he was ordered to nine months active duty with the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division during the Berlin Crisis.

As Blaney prepared to leave the state's top military position, he predicted success for his successor.

"You will be a great adjutant general," Blaney told Wilkening. "You have the all the intelligence, knowledge and skills for this important position," he said.

Twelve stars and 32 years of TAGs



It isn't often that all six living adjutants general of Wisconsin gather together in one spot, but all six were in attendance at the Wisconsin National Guard change of command ceremony Aug. 9. From the back row, left to right, are Maj. Gen. Raymond A. Matera, 1979-1989; Maj. Gen. Jerald D. Slack, 1989-1996; Maj. Gen. Jerome J. Berard, 1996-1997; Maj. Gen. James J. Lison, 1969-1977; Maj. Gen. (WI) Al Wilkening, 2002; and Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, 1997-2002. Photo by Larry Sommers.

Intelligence on loan from Wisconsin

Story and Photo by
Capt. Sean McKenna
379th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force Intelligence Badge displays a key of knowledge superimposed on a globe—a fitting symbol for a career field critical to the air expeditionary concept.

Lt. Col. Ed Polachek runs the intelligence office for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The six-person shop is charged with providing information to commanders to help them make key decisions in the fight against terrorism.

"We are trusted to be the commander's warning board so that he can determine the proper course of action," said Polachek, a 36-year military veteran with 26 years in intelligence. "We need to make sure the information we give is accurate and factual at all times."

Polachek and his crew deployed in March from the Madison-based 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard. But these guys are no strangers to the Middle East, having previously deployed together to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Tur-

key. With the benefit of working and deploying together regularly, the team took little time getting acquainted with their surroundings.

The team includes Polachek, Capt. John Slack, Capt. Mike Garvin, Senior Master Sgt. Gary Gard, and Tech. Sgts. Mike Hemberger and Jeff Koziczowski.

Today's intelligence world moves at breakneck speed, with information coming in from sundry government agencies via secure computer networks. Polachek's office breaks down a daily mountain of data and turns it into usable chunks for operational commanders to digest.

"Intel plays an integral part in the planning cycle," Polachek said. "We're one of many players who help figure out how we can safely carry out flying missions and protect our troops on the ground and at the base."

The job of an intel specialist is by no means an easy one. Dealing in the murky world of top-secret information is not something taken lightly, Polachek said. It requires checking and rechecking facts to make sure they're current and reliable because there are many curveballs thrown on any given day.

"Every intel member needs to be organized," he said. "How you store things, how you research things—those are all important parts of the job. You have to be inquisitive, go beyond the obvious answer and ask why that piece of information is important to the bigger picture."

Besides being eyes and ears for the commander, the intel office also works hard to get information out to all airmen in the wing. They have made it a priority to visit units around the base and brief airmen on the history behind Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, including the structure of al Qaeda forces and makeup of regional factions.

As National Guard members, the team embodies the Air Force's Total Force commitment, which brings together active-duty, Guard and Reserve men and women for all wartime operations.

"The Guard and Reserve have played an incredibly important part in the U.S. military for a long time—well before September 11," said Victoria Clarke, assistant secretary of defense. Their participation in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, she said, "has been extraordinary."



Tech. Sgt. Jeff Koziczowski, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Intelligence, looks at a map of Southwest Asia. Koziczowski is one of six members in his office, all deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, from the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard. Photo by Capt. Sean McKenna, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs.

Support personnel practice field readiness

Story and photos by
Julie Friedman
At Ease Staff

Most years, the soldiers of the 232nd Personnel Services Detachment spend their annual training behind a desk in some relatively cushy office building, but this year was a welcome exception for them.

For the first time in the last five years, they moved their entire operation to the woods of Fort McCoy to live and train near the units that they normally support from their home base in Madison.

A three-day exercise during the first week was a practice run—a test of their packing, navigating and tent erecting skills. They also trained on operating a 10K generator, setting up defensive positions and providing

24-hour security.

After a break for an after-action review and weapons maintenance, they were ready to move out for real during week two. The tents went up like clockwork, the computers were up and running soon after, and within a day they were doing soldier readiness processing for the 132nd Support Battalion in their field location.

"I was very proud of what they accomplished," said Sgt. 1st Class Ed Spitz, who serves as the detachment's first sergeant. "I can't say it enough, because everyone exceeded my expectations."

The unit also took advantage of the facilities at Fort McCoy to conduct some fun team-building exercises, including a confidence course and a dry riverbed crossing.



From left, Spcs. Jessica Schutz, Chad Larsen, Christina Andersen and Jill Hamm negotiate a rope bridge over a dry riverbed at Fort McCoy.

Four Wisconsin units participate in warfighter exercise

By Col. Dave Gapinski
57th Field Artillery Brigade

The diverse group of artillery warfighters assigned to the 57th Field Artillery Brigade arrived in the country of BlueLand at 2330 hours. As dawn broke, they fell in on their equipment positioned well forward in the zone of the U.S. 3rd Armored Corps. Within 36 hours Wisconsin's Iron Brigade and two other field artillery brigades of the 3rd Armored Corps were committed to battle in support of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment's run to the Nam Han River. The field artillery adopted the motto of giving the enemy "no time to rest, no place to hide and multiple ways to die."

The above scenario parallels the experience of 77 soldiers — from four Wisconsin units and an Arizona brigade — who represented the 57th Field Artillery Bri-

gade in a 3rd Armored Corps Warfighter exercise (WFX) at Fort Hood, Texas February 22 through March 3, 2002.

There is a demand for field artillery brigades to participate in Warfighter exercises. Though required only to take part in one WFX every two years, the 57th has adopted a "have gun will travel" attitude as a result of its participation in three such exercises in less than two years. These included 5th Corps, 34th Infantry Division, and 3rd Armored Corps exercises. The 57th will also participate in a 1st Corps Warfighter exercise this fall at Fort Lewis, Wash. Many field artillery brigade commanders agree that a corps-level Warfighter is the best way to train brigade staff.

The purpose of a corps-level WFX is to provide unit leaders and staff, as nearly as possible, the stress and tempo of the battlefield.

With more than 3,000 participants in the exercise, headquarters units of the 3rd Armored Corps established communications links via digital systems to one another and to their subordinate elements.

Because the 57th Brigade's participation in the exercise was scheduled on relatively short notice, most of the soldiers representing the brigade at Fort Hood had not worked together before. Personnel from at least eight separate headquarters rounded out the brigade's contingent in the 3rd Armored Corps' exercise.

The 57th was represented by a tactical operations center (TOC) staffed by brigade headquarters personnel; and a "simulation cell" of 12 to 15 soldiers per 12-hour shift, whose job was to simulate the maneuvers of the brigade's three battalions — Wisconsin's 121st and 126th, and Michigan's 182nd. Each notional battalion in the simulation cell consisted of a "battle captain" who controlled the unit, fire control personnel, two or three battalion staff members, and a "puckster" who would move the simulated battalion, with its associated air defense, engineer, infantry and armor assets, on the computerized field of battle.

The 3rd Armored Corps is a digital corps. Information management and command-and-control are fast-paced. Digitization brings advantages and challenges to the warfight.

The systems interface of the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Digital System (AFATDS) with the Interim Fire Support Automated System (IFSAS) challenged the skills of soldiers as they communicated with other units of the Corps. The experience of Sgt. Eric Muncy, a fire direction control (FDC) chief from Arizona's 153rd Field Artillery Brigade, complemented that of Capt. Ryan Brown, a battery commander from 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, and Sgt. 1st Class David Reedich, an FDC instructor with 1st Battalion, 426th Regiment — the Wisconsin Military Academy's field artillery school.

For many artillerymen, working with a field artillery brigade is eye opening. "I don't get to see the tactical side by working in the school house" said Reedich. Brown's experience was limited to



Sgt. Moana Fuller updates operations charts during the 3rd Armored Corps Warfighter exercise (WFX) at Fort Hood.

a direct support battalion, the 120th, in support of the 32nd Infantry Brigade. Muncy, from Arizona, hoped "to see you in the fall. We always go to the 1st Corps WFX," he said.

In the Operations Section of the brigade's Tactical Operations Center (TOC), Capt. Michelle Carter, a chemical officer, "came for the experience in NBC. Involvement in an exercise at the corps level offered a chance to refresh my skills."

Spc. Cara Borchardt and Sgt. Moana Fuller also came for the experience. Borchardt, a tactical wire installer, functioned in the exercise as an IFSAS operator. "Every Warfighter is different," she said. "At the Leavenworth warfighter (34th Infantry Division, August 2001) I just worked at the computer. During this warfighter I got to see the big picture... why everything is happening."

Fuller, a radio installer, also worked in the brigade's simulation cell for the 34th Division's WFX. "Here, it was extremely different. I never worked in Ops before," said Fuller.

Spc. Sylvester Gray, a cook for Sussex-based Battery C, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery, worked in operations at the brigade's Administrative and Logistics Center. By not being in the kitchen, Gray said, "I learned how war goes... I can see the actual picture." When the TOC received a visit from Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, deputy adjutant

general for Army, and Brig. Gen. Harold Nevin, deputy commander of the 34th Infantry Division, Gray's knowledge of the operations map impressed the general officers.

Sgts. Timothy Larzelere and Joe Meitzen, members of Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion 121st Field Artillery, worked a twelve-hour night shift in the simulation cell as pucksters. Pucksters are supervised by battle captains and staff officers, but many of their actions require independent quick decisions. The sergeants were concerned about the tactics, techniques and procedures required for the movement and positioning of a field artillery battalion. Larzelere and Meitzen agreed with the statement, "Now that I'm a trained puckster, I'd like to do this in the fall."

The exercise ended approximately six and one-half days after the soldiers of the 57th were committed to support the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Within 10 hours they re-deployed to Wisconsin, and most were back at their civilian jobs within the next 20 hours.

The strength of the 57th Field Artillery Brigade reflects the unique characteristics of its soldiers, assigned or attached. Teams do not let team members down. The success of the 57th's sojourn to Fort Hood rested in the ability of soldiers to serve as members of cohesive teams, teams of winners — part of America's Army.



Sgt. Chris Dashiell and Spc. Sylvester Gray update the admin/logistics charts during WFX.

Medevac unit picks up after infantry fight

By Spc. Scott Tyner
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment,
United States Army Reserve

Gunfire ripped through the underbrush, cutting down everything in its path, as the squad attacked the enemy bunker. After the smoke cleared, the bunker lay in ruins, with casualties strewn about in desperate need of help.

Companies A and C, 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry, and aircrews from the 832nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) tested their skills in scenarios like this one during their annual training at Fort McCoy in June.

"The squad received the order, planned their mission and then had to move three to three-and-a-half kilometers over some very hilly terrain," explained 2nd Lt. John Grochowski, a platoon leader from the 128th. "When they reached the objective, they had to attack and knock out a bunker. After that, any casualties had to be assessed and moved to a landing zone where the squad leader called in a medevac."

UH-1 Huey helicopters from the 832nd Medical Company then came in and evacuated the injured, said Grochowski.

Pfc. Clint Vervoren, a medical specialist with Charlie Company, was there with his squad to assess casualties.

"My squad had a mission to take out a bunker," said Vervoren. "The bunker was set up on a hill, and when we did the mission, we took casualties. My job was to fix them up quick and move them out of the danger zone. We moved them out a little further and I worked on them a little more. Then we brought them to the landing zone."

"Our medics have probably done at least 10 to 12 of these 'dust-offs,'" said Grochowski. "Every medic that's attached to a platoon does four, and then the squad leaders get the confidence in calling up and talking to the medevac operations."

"The medevacs are coming into a strange landing zone, which forces them to adapt more," Grochowski added.

"This isn't the first time that we've worked with the 832nd for training purposes," said Grochowski. "This is very good training for their medics and ours. This mission has been going really well."

"Maybe next time we could add a few more stresses to the training to make it a little more 'real world,'" Grochowski added with a grin.



Members of the 832nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) prepare a UH-1 Huey helicopter to evacuate the "injured" during annual training at Fort McCoy in June.

Guard firefighters in disaster drill

*By John Charlier,
Assistant Chief
128th Air Refueling Wing
Fire Department*

A fictitious collision between a DC-9 passenger jet and a small airplane provided the dramatic scenario for a full-scale airport exercise at Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport May 23, and the 128th Air Refueling Wing's fire department played a key role as first responders.

Milwaukee Air Traffic Control declared a simulated alert. The exercise scenario had the DC-9's pilot reporting a noxious odor in the cabin, followed by symptoms of difficulty breathing, watering eyes, itching and burning sensations on the skin, in the nose and mouth among passengers and crew. This led to a hypothetical

emergency landing, during which the airliner smashed into a Cessna 172 on the runway. The Cessna came to rest on the east side of the airport in the fire training area and began burning. The DC-9 ended up on the west ramp, with small fires erupting. The scenario included fatalities as well as traumatic injuries and burns.

128th firefighters assisted in extinguishing the burning Cessna at the fire training grounds and then responded to the DC-9. Crew members helped remove victims from the accident scene and took them to a triage area to prepare for transportation to a local hospital.

Firefighters from the 128th who participated were James Saler, John Charlier, Richard Ludowise, Marc Formolo, Josh Hareng, Matt Dickmann and Senior Airman David MacCudden.



Matt Dickman and Senior Airman David MacCudden, firefighters from the 128th Air Refueling Wing's fire department, assist mock casualties during the May 23 full-scale disaster exercise at General Mitchell International Airport, Milwaukee. Wisconsin Air National Guard photo.



Matt Dickman and Marc Formolo spray foam in the fire training area. Wisconsin Air National Guard photo.

Russell is 'hot shot'

Senior Airman Jason E. Russell, Madison, a member of the 115th Security Forces Squadron, earned a distinctive recognition while attending the Security Forces Academy Apprentice Course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Russell received the Sgt. Louis H. Fischer Award, which is presented to the student trainee who has qualified as "expert" the first time with the

M-16 rifle and M-9 pistol, passed all performance evaluations on the first attempt, has received no administrative counseling, and has achieved a test average of 97 percent.

Fischer, the award's namesake, was a security policeman killed in action at the age of 22, while defending Tan Son Nhut Air Base at Hue, Vietnam, against a well-armed force of North Vietnamese in the "Tet offensive" of January 31, 1968.



Russell

Gravel-makers practice minefield survival

*Story and Photos By
Spc. Justin A. Carmack
350th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment*

Two lines of soldiers walk along opposite sides of a narrow dirt path, their weapons at the ready, their index fingers flexed

and ready to squeeze the trigger. Each soldier wears the same expression. Every step reflects anxiety and anticipation. They know the enemy could strike at any moment.

Minesweeping soldiers cautiously lead the formation, holding metal detectors in front of

them, just inches above the ground. Suddenly the lead minesweeper detects metal in the ground and signals the lines of moving soldiers to stop. They drop to the ground and point their weapons up in search of the enemy. A soldier crawls slowly and cautiously toward the suspected area, then carefully probes the ground with two narrow metal rods. After close examination of the area, the soldier rises to his feet. It was a false alarm.

This sequence illustrates one type of drill the 106th Quarry Team, 264th Engineer Group, completed during Annual Training here.

"It takes more pressure than one might think to set off one of the mines with the probes," said Pfc. Casey M. Sampson, a quarry specialist. "Once the mines are found, they are then disarmed or completely avoided."

The Ashland-based unit came to Fort McCoy to participate in lanes training. As part of their training for the minesweeping mission, the 106th was given a scenario that included intelligence information reflecting the presence of an opposing force (OPFOR) in its area of operation.

The first assignment tackled by the 106th soldiers was finding their way through a suspected minefield. The soldiers approached this exercise as if they were on a real battlefield.

"The more realistic training and experience we get, the better we get at our jobs," said Spc. Abby L. Hiser, a quarry specialist.

ist. "It's good for us to be put in this kind of an environment."

The 106th also practiced strategic movements to a predetermined point. The soldiers swept their route for mines before searching for signs of the enemy. They were instructed to constantly be aware and react to OPFOR attacks. The soldiers also reacted to several challenges, including a detected minefield, a chemical environment and an OPFOR attack.

After the last challenge was overcome, the 106th performed an after-action review (AAR). The AAR, led by evaluators from Fort McCoy's 338th Training Support Battalion, was an opportunity to inform soldiers what tasks they needed further practice in performing.

"Our job is not to pick apart what these young soldiers did

wrong," said Staff Sgt. Joseph R. Meier Jr., a lane meister for the 338th. "We ask them what they think they did wrong. They talk in a group and then we offer advice on how they could improve."

At the final destination for the 106th, soldiers set up camp before embarking on a real-world mission that will make a lasting improvement at Fort McCoy. The job included blasting, clearing and grubbing a quarry site in preparation for a brand new rock crusher the unit will field in August of this year. The 106th will then make aggregate for resurfacing the post's roads and other construction projects.

"We are a fairly new unit," Hiser said, "started in 1999. Most of our soldiers are really young. We really enjoy taking the time to do our job in the field."



Spc. David C. Henneman, a quarry specialist with the 106th Quarry Team, takes cover during a mine sweeping mission at Fort McCoy, Wis.



Spc. Abby L. Hiser, a quarry specialist with the 106th Quarry Team, searches for an OPFOR at Fort McCoy.

It's sneak-and-peek for 105th Cav troops

*Story and photos by
Adam Bradley
At Ease Staff*

When one thinks of cavalry, often it's of a bugle-singing, sword-swinging, military hero screaming "CHARGE!" from atop a gorgeous white horse, but let's think more 21st-century now.

The 32nd Infantry Brigade, Wisconsin Army National Guard, is becoming more mobile. Today's cavalry no longer rides in the saddle. Modern cavalry scouts creep along enemy lines using humvees and send valuable information back to the main body by radio.

The mission of Troop E, 105th Cavalry, is reconnaissance.

"We are the eyes and ears for the main body," said Sgt. Tim Kuehlman, a member of Troop E, Merrill. "We are able to draw up a picture of what is out in front and

get that information back to the main body so the commander can decide on which way to direct attack."

Because this was the first Annual Training since the Merrill unit converted from armor to cavalry, classes and training missions focused on the basics. Unit members trained dismounted, meaning the entire scout element navigated its way to the objective point on foot.

Though some soldiers of the unit are already qualified military scouts, the entire unit needs to be brought to the same level. This was where the expertise of Army active-duty scouts came into play. Five observer-controllers from Fort Bragg assisted the unit's transition by teaching basic scouting procedures and concentrating on what the soldiers will learn in Advanced Individual Training (AIT).

"It's a good learning experience, and this new MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) really widens our horizons," said Staff Sgt. Scott O'Connell, a platoon sergeant. "We sneak a peak, gather information and relay it back to the commanders."

"Our best weapon is the radio," said Kuehlman. "If we have to use our weapons, we have been seen and failed our mission. We only use our weapons as a defensive measure."

"I love to train and being out in the field — just love it," said Sgt. 1st Class Willie R. Brunson, one of the observer-controllers. Brunson has been a scout for 16 years and was quick to correct any slip-up by one of the scouts-in-training.

"This has been a good AT, and the unit's learning curve is through the roof," said Capt. Kris N. Stolpa, Troop E commander.



Above: Staff Sgt. Todd Rucinski relays information back to the main body of Troop E, 105th Cavalry, using a small hand-held radio that is now standard equipment for the unit.

Left: Troop E, 105th Cavalry soldiers discuss the plan for a reconnaissance mission during annual training at Fort McCoy. Pictured from left are Staff Sgt. Scott O'Connell, Staff Sgt. Todd Rucinski and Sgt. Timothy Kuehlman.

2-127th Infantry helps Neenah-Menasha Boys'-&-Girls' Brigade with outdoor skills

*By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
32nd Brigade Public
Affairs Officer*

When the Neenah-Menasha Boys' & Girls' Brigade planned its annual leadership camp, the planners knew it wouldn't be the same without some of Wisconsin National Guard's best.

"People in the military are outstanding leaders," said Dan Donovan, the leadership camp coordinator. So six infantrymen from 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, took a break from Annual Training June 19 to teach rappelling and land navigation to approximately 100 boys and girls at Camp Onaway near Waupaca.

Due to the isolated location of the camp, the soldiers arrived by UH-1 Huey helicopter, wearing full military gear.

"It made everybody's day," Donovan said. The campers and staff had been expecting the soldiers to arrive by humvee, but when he heard the helicopters coming he knew it couldn't be a coincidence. "The campers were in awe, and it was a real thrill for everyone."

The Boys' & Girls' Brigade, a United Way Agency, is a non-denominational Christian organization for boys and girls grades six to 12. Its primary purpose is to provide wholesome activities in which volunteer adults interact with student members.

Having soldiers fill this role is a great asset, Donovan said. The female campers "lit up like light bulbs," he said, when they noticed that one of the helicopter pilots was a woman.

"What an awesome experience for our girls to see women working in nontraditional roles — it was absolutely priceless," Donovan said. And that was just one example of the influence the Guard members had on the campers.

"We fell in love with them," he said. "It was one of the most professional experiences I've had in a long time. We hated to see them go."

"But it was fascinating to everyone that they are our neighbors."

The headquarters of the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, is in Appleton, and the battalion has units in Marinette, Green Bay, Ripon, Fond du Lac and Waupun.

"We look forward to doing something with them in the future," Donovan said. Lt. Col. Todd Nehls, battalion commander, has the same goal.

"The event provided our soldiers an opportunity to display their pride, professionalism and training to a segment of the American public that we are very interested in," said Nehls. "These are the future leaders of the Wisconsin National Guard. It's an opportunity to show the campers what the Guard has to offer."



ABOVE: Spec. Steven Haugen, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, teaches rappelling to one of the Boys' & Girls' Brigade campers with the help of Staff Sgt. Nathan Olson.

RIGHT: A UH-1 Huey helicopter arrives, with soldiers in full military gear, ready to assist at Camp Onaway.



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Rhythm and Booms and Black Hawks

Madison's gala Independence Day celebration this year got another big boost from the Wisconsin National Guard - in front of 300,000 people in the park and before a live statewide television audience. In addition to the three-ship UH-60 flyover (photographed from the third aircraft), the 115th Fighter Wing provided an F-16 flyover, the 132nd Army Band performed throughout the afternoon, and 105mm howitzers accompanied the Madison Symphony Orchestra's "1812 Overture" grand finale. In addition, a special tribute to the armed forces featured Wisconsin National Guard involvement in military operations since last Sept. 11. Photo by Joe Oliva.